Vol. 66, #10, 1947.



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[International News photo.

THE European scene has so completely absorbed Canadian attention over the last few years that we have barely noticed the major revolution that has been taking place in this hemisphere. Even the Americans, who are more profoundly affected than we in Canada, are only beginning to show signs of uneasiness. In the United States it is customary to dismiss their Latin American neighbors as "banana republics," and to discount the incessant political turmoil that envelopes them as stiletto warfare among rival gangs of comic opera bandits. But it becomes increasingly evident that Juan Domingo Peron, the Argentine dictator, is a new phenomenon on this side of the Atlantic, an able, ruthless man with a strong country behind him, who will play for high stakes.

Peron was an unknown man six years ago. Scion of a wealthy ranch family, he went into the regular army and, lacking the opportunities conferred by active service, attained some distinction as an author on technical military matters. In 1939 he was in Berlin as his country's military attache. He entered Paris with the victorious Nazi legions, an experience that made an indelible impression on him. At some previous stage in his career he attended a fascist political school in Rome.

In 1943, as spokesman for the Argentine association of colonels, Peron played an important part in the coup d'etat which ousted the government of that day because it did not show sufficient pro-Nazi tendencies. He entered the ensuing government as minister of war, and after a sharp trial of strength with his strongest associates, emerged as the power behind the throne. In 1946 he became president of the republic with the self assumed title of "El Lider" in the manner of his defunct heroes, Der Fuehrer and Il Duce.

A FTER a succession of bold, swift strokes the Lider gained power over the affairs of his country such as has never before been given to the head of a state in the New World. Two thousand liberals were promptly clapped in jail. Five of the six supreme court judges who had rejected Peronist measures before the election were impeached. Fifteen hundred professors and educational leaders in Argentina's six universities were dismissed from their posts because of their critical attitude toward the new regime. The whole educational system of the country was recast to ensure the same thorough-going indoctrination of youth that the Allies have so recently stopped in the Axis countries. On every schoolhouse-wall hang the

twin pictures of General San Martin, Argentina's George Washington, and the new deliverer, General Peron.

Following the Hitlerian example, Peron posed as a social reformer and friend of the under-dog, attracting thereby the support of the labor movement and countless others who sincerely worked for the improvement of the lot of the masses. The outcome of this alliance, as in the German parallel, was the complete wreckage of the independent trade union movement.

Prior to the election, Peron came to terms with the Church in this overwhelmingly Catholic country. The fruit of that bargain has been the revocation of the non-sectarian school law and the installation of compulsory Catholic religious instruction, to which exemption is granted only by special permission. Certain sections of the hierarchy are gratified by this development. Large numbers of Catholics in Argentina, however, do not trust his motives. They are concerned lest Peron bring pressure to bear on the Church, for purposes which would be distasteful to them. They have

THUNDER FROM THE SOUTH

By P. M. ABEL

not forgotten Mussolini and his malodorous collaboration.

Playing both ends against the middle, the Lider wooed Russia with one arm and extended the other in cordiality to Franco and the Pope. Argentina and the Soviets were not on diplomatic speaking terms till the coming of Peron, but the last year has seen the establishment of an Argentine diplomatic corps at Moscow exceeded in size only by those of Britain and the United States. At home Peron profits by the

Wherein appear some of the reasons why Argentina, one of the few countries with current exportable surpluses of food, is not likely to sign an international wheat agreement based on world needs

support of the Argentine Communists, who echo his anti-American speeches, while Uncle Joe is gleeful over having established a bridgehead on this side of the Atlantic.

To Franco goes Argentina's most dearly prized decoration, while Peron's wife was despatched on a highly successful tour to receive from Franco's hands

hungry for Argentine wheat and meat, were bludgeoned into receiving her with elaborate fanfare. Her appearance in Paris was a field day for the modistes. Her audience before the Pope was regal in magnificence.

A fine wife for a dictator is Eva Duarte de Peron.

One of the many incidents preceding the last federal election in Argentina. When opposition speakers arrived at Buenos Aires' railway station, where large crowds gathered to greet them, Peronist forces, aided by the police under Peron, fired on the crowd. Casualties: two dead and 30 wounded.

Spain's premier distinction, the Order of Isabella la

Catolica. The civil leaders of France and Italy, both

A fine wife for a dictator is Eva Duarte de Peron, popularly known as Evita. The dictator, then a widower with one daughter, married her after commencing his climb to political fame. An American writer has described her as a cross between Eleanor Roosevelt and Hedy Lamarr. Formerly a screen actress and a radio star of no distinction, there have been as many downs as ups in her career. To the shop girl she is the embodiment of Cinderella. They see in her the possibility of the fulfilment of their own wishes. Her personal appeal is no less than that of her handsome, dashing husband. But Evita is an apt pupil in statecraft. She flies in swift planes from point to point to make speeches and she has been known to remind a group of senators on which side their bread is buttered and what will happen if they

PERON'S capacity for action can be gauged by the thoroughness with which he has gained control of the business of the country. This has been accomplished by two moves; the re-organization of the Banco Centrale, and the formation of the Institute for the Promotion of Argentine Trade.

The Central Bank is now paramount in Argentinian finance. Presiding over its affairs is Miguel Miranda, a tough business buccaneer who started life as a working man and amassed a fortune in middle life as a factory owner. The Central Bank has the power to seize every bank deposit in the country. Its loans serve political ends. It was made necessary for every other bank to get government approval of its individual loans. If a business man, who needs seasonal loans to finance his operations, is critical of the new regime, he suddenly finds that credit is impossible to get. If, however, you want to start a new enterprise, and your political views are considered sound, Mr. Miranda can order your bank to make money available to you.

This system gives the Lider life and death control over business. To quote an example. The Buenos

Aires newspaper, Critica, went to Miranda for a badly needed loan. But unfortunately Critica had published some disparaging views about the government, and so the Lider's lieutenant said "No." This is only one of the means by which Argentina's normally strong press has been whipped into line.

A hard trader, Miranda has gone about the business of buying out foreign owned railways with brusqueness and despatch. When the French haggled too long they got less than the original offer. In negotiating for the purchase of the British owned railways, Miranda offered them two billion pesos—which he said was "a sentimental figure." It took a great deal of the traditional British capacity for bargaining to get a little more than that. (The peso has fluctuated from 20 to 26 cents American since the war). At the same time he announced with malicious glee that he had cleared roughly \$200,000,000 on the sale of linseed oil to Britain.

The recent Belgian wheat purchases provide another instructive example of $Turn\ to\ page\ 54$

International News photo.

A typical Argentine peasant's dwelling.

AVIS was the first in the field. He could still see dew on the grass as he lifted down the pieces of his match-plough from his wagon and put them together with typical slowness and care, then harnessed his team and found his plot in the class for farmers' sons.

He stood at the top in front of the two horses, a soft nose muzzling each shoulder, and with characteristic thoroughness considered the slope and condition of the ground, deciding in advance what ploughing methods to use.

He was quite ready now for the ploughing match, and his thoughts moved to other things. For the fiftieth time in the last five weeks he asked himself:

"When you fall in love with a girl you don't know, how do you get to know her?"

He wished he had his cousin Albion's blithe bravado. Albion would have walked boldly up to the door of

Jasmine Cottage, and banged the knocker, and said: "I've fallen in love with you. With you. What had we better do about it?"

She would probably have laughed in amused surprise, and the ice would have been broken. For every girl liked Albion at sight. He had such inconsequent charm.

But Javis was different. Javis was shy and sedate—so shy and sedate that he viewed himself with astonishment when he fell in love all in a moment, across a gate, with a girl he had never seen before.

HE had passed her at sunset that evening five weeks ago, leaning on the gate of Jasmine Cottage and staring out across the water-meadows at nothing.

"Good-night," he had said, giving her scarcely a glance. It had been merely the indiscriminate greeting of the countryman.

She had made no answer, but continued to stare at nothing.

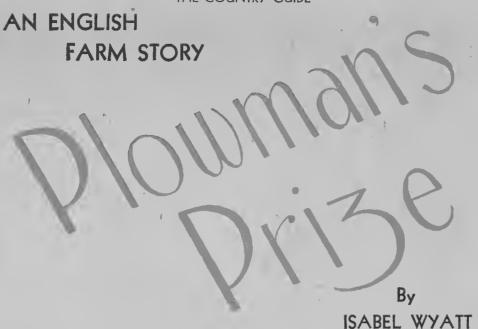
He looked at her then. He began looking in order to discover whether this was a snub or merely the exclusiveness of your town-dweller, who cares only that his friends' nights should be good. He went on looking for quite another reason.

And he had gone his way in love.

He had discovered a reason next day for seeing his cousin Rachel. Seated on the slate slab in her father's dairy, watching her deftly skimming the cream from yesterday's crocks of scalded milk, he had indulged in enough village gossip to camouflage his trend before he had slipped in the question which he had really come to ask:

"Who's this new young woman one sees about?"

"New young woman?" Rachel had considered, lifting with scarcely a wrinkle a skin of yellow cream. "What's she like?"



"Delightful, I should imagine. And fond of horses and dogs."

"I mean, to look at?" Rachel explained patiently. Rachel was a very patient person. As Javis looked at her now, she reminded him of new milk, with her freshness and sweet temper, her creamy skin and hands kept white by her dairy-work.

Javis struggled to reduce his divinity to words. How could one catalog perfection?

"She's got a horsewoman's shape. And a neat head, like a boy's. And one of those chiselled faces—you his glance, following herse know, like a Greek statue's if you gave it a coat of tan. Oh, and she leans on the gate of Jasmine Cottage."

Javis knew that before

Jasmine Cottage."

"I was just going to say it sounded like the doctor's daughter who's just come there."

"There's a new doctor, too?"

"Oh, no. He's dead. Left her with just enough to live on in a quiet place. I suppose that's why she came here."

"She lives alone?"

"Unless you count two dogs and a pony."

Javis nodded. He had somehow known there would be two dogs and a pony.

"What's her name?"

"Let me see. I did hear. Miss Bonnithorne, I think. Yes, that's it—Miss Katrine Bonnithorne."

JAVIS liked the Miss; it made life still worth living. Katrine, he suddenly discovered, had always been his favorite name. But Bonnithorne wanted changing. Thurlow, he felt, would be much more suitable.

His own name was Thurlow.

But so far he had been able to do nothing about the name. He had had to leave that afternoon for a short-term course in marketing technique at the county's Farm Institute, and every spare moment of the few days since his return had been spent in the stable and the harness room, preparing for today. Now, as he watched the line of wagons growing along the side of the field and the jovial medley in front of it of men and horses and ploughs, he felt that he was no nearer than he had been five weeks ago to getting to know his wife.

A soft voice said behind him: "Oh, here's Javis! He'll know. Javis, where's Cousin Albion's plot?"

HE turned to find Rachel standing by his plough. She was looking specially pleasing today, it seemed to him. There was an air of excitement about her which gave just the sparkle it needed to her dairymaid prettiness.

"Albion's plot?" he repeated, coming round to her from between his horses. "Well, they go alphabetically. From that end. So his will be this one, next to mine."

And then he saw her companion.

Miss Katrine Bonnithorne!

His heart gave a jolt, and then began to race. He said to himself triumphantly:
"I was wrong. I'm very much nearer to getting to

know my wife!"

She was standing with her face turned away, engaged—again!—in staring.

Javis thought:

a Thurlow son set him-

self up on a farm, he

must win at a match

"One day, when we're married, I must tease her about her favorite occupation."

But it was not at nothing that she stared today. His glance, following hers, swept a scene as gay and

gaudy as a pleasure-fair.
Greeting and pleasantry,
the clank of iron and
the shuffle of hoofs,
rang clear in the still
October morning.
Ploughs daubed the
broad wash of green
with vivid color. Splendid horses with rippling
muscles girlishly flaunt-

ed ribbons in their hair. The soil-stained coats of the ploughmen broke out into bright nosegays, and even whips burgeoned into little knots of flowers.

Javis felt a pulse of pride. She was right. It was worth staring at.

"And so is she," he added.

So he, too, stared.

Riding coat and jodhpurs showed up the perfect poise. The sleek head and rose-brown profile stood out clear-cut against the grey silk background of a hedge over-run with fruiting traveller's joy. The weathered hands, scorning gloves even in October, looked capable and strong. Javis felt a maudlin desire to hold them in his own. He was sure they would have a firm clasp, like a man's.

"Katrine!" called Rachel softly.

Katrine did not answer. Rachel touched her sleeve.

"This is my cousin Javis, Katrine. Mr. Thurlow, Miss Bonnithorne. Javis has been away, so I don't suppose you've met him?"

Javis felt that the initial step towards getting married had at last been taken.

T seemed strange now that he had never thought of Rachel as a possible rescuer. He had been bewildered at seeing them together, and almost scandalized by Rachel's casual use of his divinity's Christian name. But on reflection he realized that nothing could be more likely than that two girls of the same age and education, thrown into the immediate intimacy of village life, should quickly become friends. In five weeks such a friendship could become an old-established fact.

Katrine turned dark, intelligent eyes and looked Javis over. She saw a shy young man with earth on his wellcut breeches and a cluster of hazel nuts in his button-hole, not handsome in the city sense, perhaps, but quite good to look upon, with an athlete's figure and pleasant enough features and the clear

Turn to page 40



His hand wanted badly to go on holding hers.



The grey fox mother halted suddenly, the cub close at her side. On the slope a few feet below, a pair of tufted quail were feeding.

HEN Swifty was born up in a den under the roots of an old dead pine on the Little Mutau where his mother had already brought forth three litters, the Kid had been at the Circle Z two years. Fourteen years old the Kid was then, for he had confessed to the age of twelve the day Knotty Tolton had found him, lying exhausted and nearly dead some three miles from the ranch house. The Kid had attempted to walk the 25 burning, dusty miles into the Circle Z from Morro Junction with an old bottle full of water in one hand, and a handkerchief, a pair of old socks, and a crusted dried sandwich he had begged in the

He had revived somewhat, put up in Knotty's saddle, while the cowboy trudged back to the ranch; he revived enough to clamber off the horse at the corrals, scorning aid, and walk straightly up to Saunders and say, "Mister Boss, I'm in need of a ridin' job. Have you got anything here on this ranch to offer?'

While Saunders stared at him the Kid wavered and finally slumped down in a limp little heap. Saunders swore, and picked up the slight body gently in his arms and carried it to the ranch house. However, that was all Saunders was able to learn—"Mister Boss, I'm in need of a ridin' job." No name, while the Kid babbled in fever. "Call me Kid, if you want to," he had said a week later, lying wasted and pale in Saunders' own bed. "It ain't good breedin' to ask too many questions, Mister."

T was all Saunders could get from him. The boy knew something of handling a team and of farming they saw later. They ran a personal in the Des Moines, Kansas City, and a Nebraska paper, but to no avail. Because there was nothing else that could be done they gave the Kid a job.

In the course of a year he was grumpy old Dad Wilkins, veteran of no one knew how long at the Circle Z, was accepted—as a matter of course.

After the first year—he was then just thirteen the Kid came to make a formal monthly pilgrimage to the ranch house to see Saunders, "Boss," he would say, "I've been with the Circle Z 12 months now"-or fourteen, or fifteen, as it happened-"and I'm awonderin' if a ridin' job has opened up for me yet?"

Saunders would slowly, seriously shake his head. "No, not yet, Kid. You see, I can't fire one of the old hands to make room for you. Here's yo're check for this month-five dollars. That's right, ain't it?"

"Yes sir. Thank you, boss."

The Kid saved every cent of his money. It was for his "outfit," he said, his "ridin' gear." Old Dad

SPURS

The story of the Kid who had an ambition to become one of the ranch's ridin' men

By ROLLIN BROWN

Wilkins, hearing, gave him a silver-mounted bit and headstall, and Knotty Tolton later took ten dollars of the Kid's money, on one trip into town, and got the Kid a twenty-five dollar pair of boots. He got them cheap, was what he told the Kid. Finally the Kid sent to a mail-order house and got a saddle and chaps-eighty dollars they cost. A week later Saunders gave him an old cutting animal that was gentle and still not beyond turning back any grass-fed steer.

The Kid's joy knew no bounds when he saddled up with his own outfit for the first time.

Of all of this, of course, Swifty, nuzzling his little fox jaws into his mother's bags and scrambling with his brothers and one sister for a point of advantage, had no idea Despite the fact that Swifty's and the Kid's trails were to cross several times, known and unknown to both,

Swifty had no idea that such things as humans

Yet as the Kid learned and earned his five dollars a month, so did Swifty learn.

ONE day his mother lay beside him, both watching the low country while the other pups lay asleep in the den. Swifty dozed off. He was awakened by the sudden tensing of his mother's body. Before he was fully awake he followed her example, freezing, his beady little eyes looking where hers looked. On the slope below two tufted, big mountain quail were hunting food around the roots of the stunted sage.

Swifty's mother began to move. With his nose close to the plume of her tail Swifty followed. Down the slope they went, one behind the other; but, almost upon their prey, the mother halted. Instinctively

Swifty knew that his mother waited on him.

He leaped, caught the feathered body in his jaws, clamping down tight into the delicious soft flesh. Then a sudden, big, grey-tawny body pounced with its full heavy weight on Swifty. Something ripped his shoulder. The quail was torn from his jaws. Over all he heard the snapping snarls of his mother and knew that she was fighting the thing.

IT seemed a long time until he was loose, and limping, as fast as he could move, up toward the den. Down through the stunted sage a coyote trotted away, bearing the warm quail between his jaws.

It was two weeks before Swifty again braved the light outside the den. His fear lessened gradually, day by day.

Not so his mother's. She hunted no more by daylight. Her pups became accustomed to the sudden rush of her body into the den at night, bringing them food. They grew accustomed to her snarl, the whirl of her body to guard the den entrance behind

her. Swifty saw the danger in the moonlight one night - the greytawny coyote he remembered. Again, two days later, he saw the coyote by daylight, waiting down the slope.

The sneaking, grinning prairiewolf became a familiar sight to him in time-always waiting down the slope somewhere, or above.

It had become increasingly hard for the little bitch fox to feed her brood, both because they were growing rapidly and needed more food

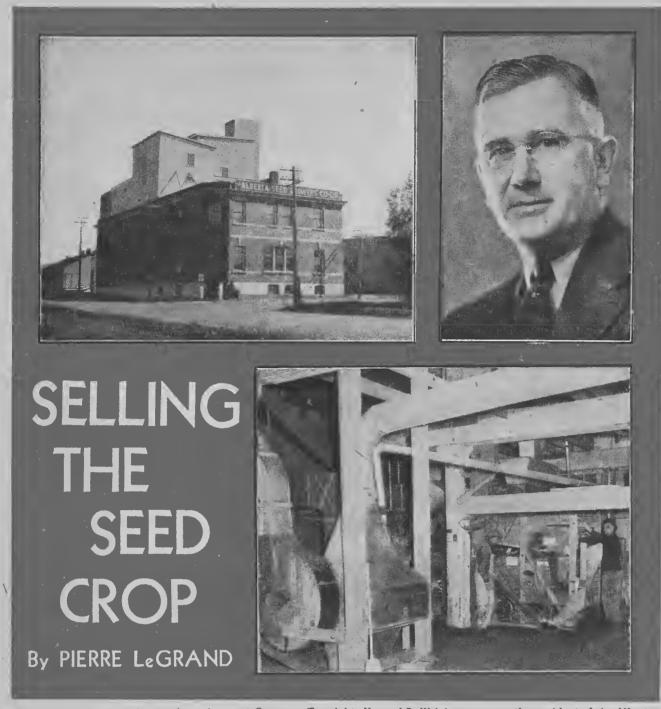
and because she lost a large portion of her kills. Always the big, tawny-grey form loomed close to the den, waiting for her.

Heroically she fought a one-sided, losing battle. She hunted tirelessly, and with an over-swiftness because she feared for the nest of pups in her absence. The little female fox of the brood died one night, and all the next day the mother nuzzled and licked it, attempting to put life again in its body. Two days later, at dusk, she moved her three remaining young to another den. And a way behind, the big coyote, the habitual grin across his chops, followed.

A week after that one of Swifty's brothers was killed. Instinct had driven him out to find food, and he had caught a young robin a hundred yards from the new den. With his jaws clamped in a first delicious crunch of the flesh, the big coyote had descended on him. The coyote's big jaws crushed his back as he swallowed the bird.

When the first early fall of snow sifted down over Turn to page 56

ILLUSTRATED by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



Top lett: The cleaning plant and warehouse at Camrose. Top right: Howard P. Wright, concurrently president of the Alberta Seed Grower Co-operative, and Canadian Seed Growers Association. Lower: Part of battery of modern cleaners at Camrose.

ARLY in the agricultural history of Alberta some wheat was grown on the rim of the Arctic circle which weighed 66 pounds to the bushel. From that time it became axiomatic that the farther north one could mature a crop, the

better would its quality be.

Of course, some fellows took to applying this doctrine too literally, including such crops as boys. We won't go into that argument now, but the accepted gospel made it certain that as Alberta agriculture matured it would produce grain and forage crop seeds in unrivalled abundance and quality. Already there are many localities in the province where seed growing is one of the major pursuits. It is the most rapidly expanding branch of farming in Alberta, limited only by the marketing possibilities. And that brings us to the story of the steps which have been taken to realize those marketing possibilities.

Back in the twenties the department at Edmonton lent some encouragement to co-operative seed marketing. It procured a building and assembled some cleaning machinery almost in the shadow of the capitol. The infant enterprise raised hopes for a while, but like other promising things of that time it was swept into the discard by the harsh broom of falling prices.

Perhaps that early seed venture was bound to fail anyway because it embodied a faulty principle. Low priced seed, like grain, was shipped to a centre, cleaned, and re-shipped to country buyers. Sometimes it landed on a farm not far from its origin. In any case by the time transportation charges were taken out there was nothing left for the producer.

Along in 1934, O. S. Longman became Field Crops Commissioner. Perhaps more than any other man at that time he saw in proper perspective the need for better organized seed marketing, the immediate effect it would have on quantity production of quality seeds, and the ultimate effect this would have on the general agriculture of the province. So Longman gathered together the wreckage of the old organization for a new start.

Out of this rebirth came the Crop Improvement Plan. In bare outline it works this way. At the commencement of the seed marketing season, a committee representing all concerned, determines prices for registered and certified seed grain which would be fair for buyer and grower alike. This list is then circulated to local grain elevators throughout Alberta. With or without suggestion from the elevator agent, a farmer, whose crop might have been worth more had he used pure seed, deposits an order for such with the agent, usually paying spot cash. The agent forwards order and money through the head office of his company to the headquarters of the Alberta Seed Growers Co-operative, which sends it to the producer who can fill the bill, and who lives closest to the customer. The producer ships as directed and is paid by the Co-op upon presenting a copy of the way bill.

THE Crop Improvement Plan has gone a long way toward the improvement of commercial grain crops within the province. Everyone in the transaction profits by its operations. Neither elevator agent

The seed business in

Alberta is growing up.

... It owes much to a

strong co-operative

selling organization,

and in turn exerts a

gratifying influence on

the agriculture of the

nor his principals charge for their services. Their reward comes from handling a better sample in ensuing years. As the Co-op makes only a small charge for its services the purchaser gets the best run for his money. The grower gets the benefit of an active market in which to dispose of his product with the least possible transportation and selling charges.

By the late thirties the production of forage crop seeds in the province had grown to proportions that challenged attention. Father Longman extended the benign hand of his department as far as he dared. But private enterprise is very vocal about that sort of thing and there were

limits beyond which he could not safely tread. Several small local forage crop marketing organizations, organized along co-operative lines, had come into being, but it soon became evident that these associations would be most successful operating under joint direction. The obvious course was to change the constitution of the old cereal growers' association so that it could handle forage crop seeds as well as grain, and put it under the same roof as the combined local forage crop associations. This was engineered in 1941 and the business of the re-organized Co-op was handled from the office of the provincial department of agriculture for that crop year.

In 1942 the Seed Growers crossed the Rubicon. They opened a tiny office in Edmonton, and rented a corner of a government liquor warehouse in Camrose served by both the principal railways. A small cleaning plant had been operated in part of this building by the department of agriculture, and this equipment became the nucleus for the new enterprise.

WITHIN five years that humble beginning has expanded into a two and one-half million dollar business, handling half the seed grain grown in the province and exerting a potent effect on the price of the other half. The building which housed the infant business in one of its corners has become the property of the Co-op, complete with cleaning machinery the like of which is not excelled in Canada. To this plant has been added 16 collecting warehouses strategically spotted throughout the province, and another cleaning plant at Coronation, in the heart of the brome grass country, with a capacity for handling 1,000,000 pounds of that crop in a season.

The growth of the Co-op reflects what is going on in the country. Applications for inspection of registered and certified seed crops have increased in geometric ratio. There were 700 inspected fields in 1945. In 1946 there were 1,700 applications for inspection. This last summer the federal government inspectors were asked to check over 2,860 fields, many growers, of course, having more than one field.

In fact the rate of growth in seed production has left the management breathless in its effort to keep up with plant extensions. Its greatest worry over the past summer has been to expand facilities at the Camrose plant to the point where it could handle an anticipated 10,000,000 pounds of legume seed, along with its steady volume of other forage crop seed. Cereal grains are, of course, still sold through the Crop Improvement Plan, as that is the most economical way of distributing seed throughout the province. Many carloads of cereal seed go to other provinces and into the export trade, some of which also passes through the Camrose plant.

IF a modern Rip Van Winkle had spent the last ten years in northern Alberta, the most surprising change to greet him on waking would be the increase in legume production. About a decade ago alfalfa was practically limited to the irrigation blocks. Then the province commenced the settlement of its grey wooded soils. The new settlers soon discovered that grain growing, as it is carried out on the open plains, was the sure road to bankruptcy. Grey wooded soils must be perennially renewed by growing legumes.

Fortunately, alfalfa set seed more reliably on these tricky soils than it did on the best land under the ditch. Many of the newcomers found salvation by growing alfalfa seed. Others went into alsike, another legume peculiarly adapted to the north. Today the alfalfa, alsike, Altaswede Red clover and Sweet clover seed from the despised grey wooded soils outstrips in volume that from the more favored areas. Five million pounds of it came out of the remote Donnelly-Falher-Tangent district alone last year.

Take a look at this alsike crop for a moment. For many farmers it has become a gold mine. Westlock, 60 miles north of Edmonton, is a recognized alsike centre of Canada. Yields up to 500 pounds of seed per acre have been recorded, and 200 pounds is fairly common.

Last year the Co-op paid a net price of 46 cents a pound. Spring sowing this year was limited only by the availability of seed. The provincial acreage is probably not less than 40,000 this year. Unlike alfalfa it is a regular and free seeder. The directors of the Co-op live under a perpetual nightmare of being buried under an avalanche of alsike seed.

All this adds up to one thing. There has been a boom in the legume seed business. Like all booms it must come to an end. Maybe that end is not far off. Seventy per cent of Alberta's alfalfa was exported last year. Most of it went to the United States. The Europeans don't dislike our alfalfa, but they like the

Hungarian product just as well, and if they can get it they won't have to pay in dollars. But Hungary is now Russia's back yard. Maybe Uncle Joe will be just as sticky about allowing Hungarian seed to go to western Europe as he has about some other things produced behind the iron curtain. If that is so, Europe will, want alfalfa seed from us but may have difficulty paying for it.

Eighty per cent of last year's alsike seed crop went out of Alberta, most of it across the Atlantic. There is an urgent desire for more of it this year. The international organization for distributing world

Turn to page 89

ONE FAMILY



This family picture taken prior to 1935, shows the! ate Mr. Schaub Sr. and his seven sons.



Martin, the Club secretary.

ONE CLUB



Mrs. Schaub Sr. and her eight daughters, two of whom regularly attend the family club meetings.

The story of fifteen brothers and sisters who have their own farming club

ORTHEAST of Edmonton, about 100 miles, and roughly 40 miles southeast of Athabaska, at Boyle, Alberta, there lives a family of farmers, who are, to say the least, unusual. In this day of much travel and the general loosening of family ties, this family is most remarkable for its solidarity.

In 1913, a family named Schaub came to Canada from Michigan. It was already a targe family with 13 children, of whom ten were then living. Five more children were born later. The family went west with a vengeance, not only into the Province of Alberta, but northward almost as far as they could go at that time. It is true they could have moved into the Peace River area, where there already was some settlement; but because they liked the wooded country in the vicinity of Athabaska, and because there were rumors of a railway coming through the village of Boyle, they settled there. Nearby, too, is the village of Plamondon, named after Joe Plamondon. an uncle of Mrs. Schaub. The proposed railway never came through. The family, however, did; and the ten children living in 1913 as well as the five born later, have grown up in the Boyle area, and all were married but the youngest one when I visited the old homestead in July of this year. The father died in 1935, but Mrs. Schaub Sr., now living in the village, is still head of the family and has all her children but one daughter residing within driving distance of

15 miles. The "clan," as Martin Schaub designated the family, now numbers 136, counting the in-laws. Careful check by Martin and his sister Katherine (Mrs. E. Richards) developed a total of 65 grandchildren and 17 greatgrandchildren. This count was probably not strictly accurate, since there was no complete record handy and memory had to be relied on.

The story of the Schaub family in recent years dates from the formation of "the Club" which, more accurately, is the Maple Leaf Study Group. It is a family affair, in which nine out of the 14 Schaub families are members —the others living a little too far away to attend its weekly meetings. Started in 1938, it was inspired by Father Loranger, parish priest at Plamondon. In fact, Father Loranger seems to have had his hand in everything which has helped to improve the family fortune since 1937. Many people have reason to remember

that up to that time, the 'thirties dealt hardly with them; and so it was with the Schaubs. Previous to 1936 the district was up against it, and in 1934 they were dried out. In 1935 the crops were flooded, and in 1936 they were hailed out. This was disappointing enough, but the soil was being depleted rapidly of its fertility. The original homestead barely returned its seed. Something in addition to hard work was clearly necessary.

J. M. Fontaine, district agriculturist (now at Morrinville), had tried to talk to people of the district about forage crops and about better livestock, but with little success. Father Loranger urged the virtues of co-operation and was responsible for arranging a visit from His Grace, Archbishop Macdonald of Edmonton, who told the people about the St. Francis Xavier plan of co-operation. The first result was the formation of the Maple Leaf Study Group, under the tutelage of Father Loranger, to study credit unions and other forms of co-operation. Father Loranger also wrote to Mr. Fontaine, who responded promptly and spent a lot of time in the district. He got them started on forage crops. "He wouldn't leave us alone," said Martin. "He held short courses and several demonstrations. Alfalfa was his maln talk."

THE club held weekly meetings for members of the family, and through Mr. Fontaine, the Department made forage crop seed available at reduced prices and also conducted meetings of various kinds. The group had two poor purebred bulls when Mr. Fontaine came to the district, and the livestock generally was of poor quality. Mr. Fontaine got rid of the bulls they had and got a better one. For six years the club members had a Dominion government bull, then obtained their own through the District Agriculturist. Each time a change was made it was for the better. It was through Mr. Fontaine also that the family was able to benefit from the government boar and sow policy, as well as the sheep improvement policy of the provincial government. By 1940 they were ready to purchase a stallion, and obthe government and at the time of my visit were waiting for 'phones to be available so that they could rebuild their line and hook up with the outside world through the switchboard in the village.

The credit union now has 153 members, from which it will be seen that it has extended far beyond the limits of the Schaub family. When it was first formed, a savings pool was opened for pennies and coins. After incorporation, of course, it was regularized under existing legislation. Now most of the expensive machinery such as combines, threshers and other equipment are secured, where necessary, through the aid of the credit union.

The Schaubs own some equipment or projects collectively. Tractors and cars are individually owned for the most part, but the orchard, apiary and telephone system are collectively owned projects, as are the purebred cattle, sheep and swine sires. A brush cutter is on order and will be owned co-operatively. The club also owns sports equipment, and it is planned to build a skating rink and a swimming pool. In general, the club policy is that all heavy or unusual eouipment is owned co-operatively, unless an individual can buy his own and be benefitted from doing so.

I^N 1943 a co-operative store was established at the home farm, and in 1945 the idea was extended and a store set up in the village. Membership in the co-operative store is open to anyone, and the store

at the farm is operated as a branch of the village co-op.

The family operates 14 quarters, 12 of these by the seven sons. The remaining two are in the names of two of the daughters who make up the membership of nine in the family club. Though six of the daughters live a little too far away to attend the regular weekly club meetings, 13 out of the 15 Schaub children are members of the credit union and 'the co-operative store. Nine of the families are on a private telephone line. Three of the farms are now electrically equipped with 32-volt plants, and there is a prospect that power from a projected power line may be available within the near future. By late fall it is expected that three new houses will have been completed and equipped with water and sewage systems. As a matter of fact, the modernization of farm homes is the current subject of organized study by the club.

In 1942, G. L. Godel, the present district agriculturist, was transferred to Athabaska. By this time also, the move toward forage crops for restoring soil fertility had proceeded far enough so that the program could be broadened to include emphasis on Altaswede clover as well as alfalfa. Martin Schaub told me that he now has five acres of Alsike, from which he harvested last year 800 pounds of seed and a total return of \$1,100. This forage crop program is paying off. The average wheat yield now is around 35 bushels per acre, whereas prior to 1938 a yield of 12 bushels was tops. When we were going over to the Richards farm from the old homestead, to get some

The log house where the co-op. store was started and where many club meetings have been held.

tained a proven Percheron, 11 years old, from the

During all this time, the club had been functioning regularly. A credit union had been formed, which helped to finance some of the improvements. In 1939 a junior grain club was formed; and a telephone system of the barbed wire variety was started in the same year, by Father Loranger. The family bought eight telephone boxes in Edmonton and put them on fence posts and barbed wire. These lasted quite a while, but in 1946 the club bought ten miles of wire from

By H. S. FRY

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T was still night when Jeremy reached out an arm and silenced the racket of his alarm clock. In the grimy long underwear in which he slept, he opened the door of his wagon and stepped out. He always did this-one deep breath of that fresh night air which had swept over hundreds of miles of uninhabited land, one glance around-

The day would be clear, the stars were low and brilliant. Their light illumined the whole vast scene, stretching through illimitable distances to low horizons, the contours of the hills far away, the belts of timber, the thick willows along the winding stream way below in the meadows. Closer by was the grey mass of the sheep, faint shadows picking out the curved lines of their backs; here and there was a lifted head of incomparably tender shape.

They were silent and motionless. Not even the bell-wether tinkled.

Suddenly, close beside Jeremy, another face was lifted from the ground, a grinning, toothly face, with shaggy cocked ears and wild brown eyes, bright and questioning. Is there anything for me to do?

"Go back to bed, Shep."

The dog returned to the warm spot under the sheepwagon where he had been sleeping, but he kept one eye open, one ear pricked and both nostrils on the alert. There would be the smell of food soon.

Jeremy returned to his wagon and shaved and dressed carefully, for he was going into society today; he would be consorting with ladies—the highest in the land. He cooked his bacon and eggs, his coffee and oatmeal. He sliced and ate innumerable pieces of bread piled with strawberry jam which he dug out of a big can. He fed his dogs.

It was getting darker. The stars were paling. At last there was no more starlight, only a ghostly grey tinge that came from nowhere and changed and saddened and made mysterious the face of the world.

Jeremy stepped out of the wagon.

"Get 'em going, Shep."

Shep shot at top speed away from the wagon, roused the other dogs and gave them the message. They glanced at Jeremy, seeing even in the darkness that he waved his arm westward. They knew without being told that the sheep must always move with their backs to the sun, westward in the morning, eastward in the afternoon.

THE lambs began to nurse and there was a great baaing and bleating. Gradually the band spread and scattered to graze.

In Jeremy's hand was a nursing-bottle with a large nipple. The bottle was full of condensed milk which he had warmed. "Here, Pinky, Pinky!"

There ran out of the flock to him, bleating, a fourmonths-old lamb, husky, thick-wooled. It was one of the motherless little ones which are called bummers because they grow up on the flock, learning to dodge the indignant butts of the mother ewes who have no intention of nursing any except their own lambs. A suck here, a suck there, ducking and running from one to the other-so they manage to survive. Occasionally the sheepherder helps them along.

Jeremy seated himself on the step of his wagon and held out the bottle. Pinky eagerly hitched on. Presently Jeremy lifted the lamb up, sat him on his

left knee with one arm around his middle. The lamb leaned back, resting his head against Jeremy's shoulder, his front legs dangling like arms over Jeremy's wrist. Jeremy's right hand, with the bottle, was held high, feeding him the milk. Pinky sucked the bottle dry. Jeremy set him down, and he ran away and disappeared in the flock.

All was ready. Jeremy closed the door of his wagon. He was dressed in his best and newest bluejeans, a plaid shirt with a vest buttoned over it and a ten gallon hat. A heavy gold watch was in his watch pocket and from it dangled a chain of gold nuggets. The watch was one which told time by chimes, very

convenient for sheepherders whose eyes so constantly are watching the far places that they forget how to see at short distances. He carried over his left arm the slicker without which no sheepherder ever moves, and in his right hand a light cane which he had cut from one of the quaking-asps.

Gathering up his sheep, he emitted sharp cries, he yelled messages to his dogs, he waved his arms. The sheep increased their pace. They nibbled rapidly, ran

a few steps, nibbled again.

At last they were moving along the mountainside at a fairly good pace.

The sheepwagon stood alone and deserted.

Down under the eastern horizon a sea of color was washing upward. Already forerunners of it, wide banners, raced toward the zenith. The last star melted away. One hilltop after the other sprang into light. Every cloud flushed pink or red. A blazing sickle of gold edged up over the undulating line of hills in the east and from it shot a circle of dazzling



rays. The glorious June day came in like the roar of a symphony.

Big Joe and Tommy, Rob McLaughlin's heavy team, blinked their eyes as they jogged along the top of Saddle Back, going up to the sheep camp to get Jeremy's wagon and bring it to the ranch for the shearing.

They trotted side by side, festooned with harness. The braces were looped up, the big collars were loose on their necks.

Astride of Tommy was Ken. Astride of Big Joe was Carey. Big Joe's trot was long and rough. Without a saddle, and unable to post or knee-grip, she bounced madly and often had to grab the hames.

The wind was cool, the sunrise filled their eyes, they were on the top of a wide and empty world and they should have been friends but Carey's face was turned away from Ken and his heart hurt him.

It was his own fault, he knew that. He had been mad at her ever since she had chosen to go fishing with Howard the day before. It had made him still angrier that something had happened between them that he was shut out of. This ought to be thrashed out and explained, she had to tell him all about it, and until she did, things could not be right between them. His manner toward her, hurting her and showing her plainly that he was affronted, was what would make her try to conciliate him; she would want to win him over, and then he would understand and forgive, and take her back into his friendship, and oh-love her, love

BUT Carey had not played her part in this imagined scene at all. From the moment when they had kept their rendezvous, so early that it seemed practically in the night, she had been bright and sweet and oblivious to his mood and his attitude. This had made him scowl more fiercely, though, in the darkness, what use was it? She ought to be able to tell by his voice, by the short, sharp sentences he spoke

as he led her from the house up to the stable corral where Big Joe and Tom-

my were waiting.

He had put the harness on the two horses, carrying each piece of the equipment from the stable and slinging it over the wide backs while Carey stood talking to the beasts. They ate their oats, she patted their thick necks.

"How'll I ever get up on him?" she had laughed, looking up at the tower-

"I'll lift you up." Ken longed to lift Carey. There was not a day that he did not try to think up some event which would necessitate his lifting her or carrying her-perhaps across the creek,

but she always skipped ahead, as spry as a little frog; or getting over a fence, but of course she was up and over while he was gathering his nerve.

"Why, you couldn't!" she exclaimed, laughing. "He's way over your head too! I know what I'll do!" And she climbed up the corral fence to which Big Joe was tied, slipped her leg over his back and slid onto

They rode out of the corral.

He wondered if she had no notion that he was angry. She prattled along excited by being out so early and showed not the least consciousness of any-

So then he had begun to upbraid her. He had burst out, demanding to know what had happened between her and Howard yesterday. And why, before that, she had gone fishing with Howard, anway. And why she showed such favor to Howard at all, and why, and why, and why-

Carey had made a few surprised, stumbling re-

MARY O'HARA



joinders at first, then had fallen silent, her face turned away from him. Finally she had given a little cold laugh. "Well, you don't own me, do you?"

Ken could not answer, and they had ridden up the Saddle Back and along its crest in silence.

He felt that he did own her-that he must-and finally, quite humbly, he tried to explain, "I guess it's because of last year I feel that way-don't you remember? The blizzard, and your being lost and seeing Thunderhead. Oh, Carey—I can't help it—"

It was no use. Riding with his head turned to look at her he saw an impassive profile. There was nothing to do but go along, trot-trot, jog-jog, now and then breaking into a lope—the trip seemed endless. The sun got higher and higher. Now that Ken had had his outburst everything within him was melted into tenderness. If she would only look at him, give him one smile, one soft glance.

But Carey was shut into herself and away from

They arrived at the wagon and before Ken had got to the side of her horse to help her she had slipped to the ground.

He hitched the team to the wagon, they got in, and Ken took the reins. Carey sat quietly beside him. They started off. Halfway along the mountainside they passed Jeremy with the sheep and left him behind. They arrived at the ranch in time for break-

Already Garcia, the Mexican, and his men were there. Bunkhouse breakfast was over, the men were busy preparing the shearing pens.

ROB heaved a deep sigh, shoved his hat farther back and scratched his head. Then, squinting, knotting the impatient lines which crisscrossed his forehead, he looked slowly over the heavens, the horizon, the far mountains.

It was his habitual, almost automatic gesture.

There was nothing to demand his attention. It was a placid day in late June. The scene was peaceful. meadows and rolling hills covered with lush grass, the farther hills with pine, glimpses of mountains in the distance, and at his feet the little stream, its clear brown water rushing busily over the rocks and twisting under the banks.

The shearing was over.

The grinning, half-naked Mexicans had gone on



propriate seriousness. No worms for him! Few were the Saturday afternoons that did not provide him with an outing and a creel full of trout. But Rob's short patience was exhausted. He pulled in his line and walked up to Rodney. "How the hell a grown man can waste his time in

friend and doctor, leaned around a bush, wigwag-

ging for silence. Rodney took his fishing with ap-

such foolishness!" exclaimed Rob.

"How do you expect me to catch anything if you come stamping and shouting around?" complained Rodney bitterly. At that moment he felt a strike, played his fish and drew out a shining ten-inch trout.

Rob watched him glumly as he took it off the hook and dropped it in his creel. "What do you think I got you out here for?"

RODNEY looked at him suspiciously, "Well, you said to come out and fish but I had an idea you had something else in the back of your head. If you want to consult me professionally why don't you come to my office when you're in town?"

Rob shrugged. "Go on and get your fish. I'll put in the time doing something that'll be of some use to me. Call me when you're through." He walked a little way off, flung himself down on the grass, pulled his hat over his eyes and composed himself for slumber.

"Who is sick?" asked Rodney as he gathered up his things and moved upstream a little way.

There was no answer. A gentle snore came from under Rob's hat. Rodney smiled and carefully cast under the farther bank, then relaxed in the true fisherman's attitude, a blend of a constant alert and a dreaming peace.

Fishing, one can think of many things at once. Thoughts dart through the mind, different topics, as fish through the water. Who was sick here at the Goose Bar? The baby? Nell had had Penny in his office regularly. The baby was thriving. Howard? Ken? Nothing was ever wrong with Rob or Nell.

He moved silently up the bank. His creel filled Six, seven trout, all good sized. What luck to have a trout stream like this right in your own backyard. But Rob didn't fish. When he wanted relaxation he went to town, went to luncheon in the hotel res-

to their next job. The mess they had left behind them had been cleaned up. The incessant basing and bleating which had laid an unaccustomed blanket of sound over the ranch for five days had faded into silence as Jeremy and his dogs headed back to the range with the three thousand naked and ridiculouslooking ewes and their lambs. Many of the ewes had long bloody scars on them

where the shears had torn into the flesh. Several of them had died from their wounds. The skinned carcasses were hanging in the wind cage to dry and cure. There would be roast mutton, tasting almost like venison, and deliciously flavored with garlic, for some time to come.

IT had been a good clip, as Jeremy had foretold. There were eighty of the long wool sacks. To fill these a platform had been built, supported on eightfoot stilts; it had a large hole in the centre through which the sack was thrust hanging to the ground below, the edges of its gaping mouth fastened around a steel hoop which ringed the edge of the hole. About thirty-five of the fleeces went into each of the big sacks. The truck had made five trips to town with the wool. It was sold, and the check was in the bank. Everybody could relax.

Rob heaved another sigh, pulled his hat down over his eyes and concentrated on his fishing. He reeled the line in, frowning heavily, cast the bait to a likely spot downstream under the farther bank, watched a moment with intense determination, impatiently yanked it out, got to his feet, walked upstream, found himself another place, and sat down to fish again. His bait was gone. Cursing freely, he got the can out of his pocket, forced a worm on the hook and dropped it under the bank. His eyes wandered. Again he recalled his thoughts to his fishing, peered into the water for his hook, saw it, lifted it, dropped it in another place, and again forgot it while his eyes wandered and his lips pursed, whistling the air to "Oh, it's the galloping hoofs! It's the green grass rolling range of Wyoming."

At some distance from him, Rodney Scott, his

Who was sick here anyway? Nell. The conviction

hit him hard. She had been sick a long time. Why hadn't he seen it? He had carried her through her pregnancy and confinement with standard care, standard remedies, standard advice. Nothing had gone wrong. They had been crazy for the baby, overanxious. When she came she was tiny. All attention had been centred on her. But certainly, now, looking back, he could see that Nell was not herself-had not been herself since the baby came. Before that? His thoughts went probing back into the past. Certainly Nell had been terribly run down that year before her pregnancy began—white and thin and silent. Before that? He couldn't remember. Nell was a hard person to know about. So very controlled. Always the same in her gay manner, in the way she was adequate to every demand, and if anything was wrong, covered

Zing! Another strike. As Rodney played the fish a deep, bellowing roar reached him. Rodney looked about nervously. In these big pastures, a mile or more square, you never knew if there were cattle in it with you or not, but the bulls knew instantly if there was a stranger on the place. That bull was a terror.

Then Rodney saw Cricket, who had already seen him. The bull was a quarter-mile away and, fortunately, on the other side of a barbed-wire fence. Cricket was pacing the length of it, his head turned so that he could keep his eyes on this stranger. Now and then he paused to rake the dust and roar.

From the other direction came Rob's lusty snores. Rodney felt reassured and continued to fish until his creel was full. Then he reeled in his line, put away his folder of flies and went to Rob and sat down beside him. He shook him by the shoulder.

"Now tell me who is sick?" he asked.

ROB sat up, stretched, shook the sleep out of his eyes, addressed Rodney with jovial profanity, examined the heavens, took his pipe out and filled it, demanded to see Rodney's fish and finally settled down to talk about Nell.

Cricket paced the length of the wire fence and back again, his eyes on the two men. The sun was low, shadows lengthened. Sounds from far away drifted to them, the moo of a cow, the sound of a bus on the Lincoln Highway two miles away, the honk of a horn. And Rob talked and talked, pausing occasionally to answer questions, and the burden of it all was just that Nell was not right—hadn't been right for several years—was getting worse—others were beginning to notice it — the boys — something wrong with her — just the other night woke up screaming and wanted Rob to "Hold me! Hold me!" It gave him the shivers.

After he had stopped talking, Rodney was silent a long time. He had a stalk of timothy grass in his mouth. He pulled at it and chewed it, his eyes far

"And you say she's never been ill?" Turn to page 60

THE Country GUIDE

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The Packinghouse Strike

As this is written the nation-wide packinghouse strike involving 14,000 workers concludes its third week with no hope in sight of an early settlement. The points at issue are an increase in wage rates, and a refusal on the part of the union to negotiate local agreements.

On the first point we offer no opinion. The second was immediately bedevilled by political considerations. An overwhelming majority, in the western provinces at least, will concur in the opinion that a strike which blocks the main channel for the marketing of Canada's livestock is of the gravest national concern, therefore the national government should have the power to compel negotiation and the operation of plants pending agreement. Ottawa is powerless to act, however, because authority in the field of labor relations is in the hands of the provinces, and at least one of the larger provinces, jealous of surrendering the least vestige of its rights, is unlikely to waive jurisdiction in the interests of a speedy settlement. As we write, representatives of seven provinces are meeting at Toronto on the invitation of Hon. Charles Daley, Ontario's minister of labor, to discuss a means of terminating the strike, a tardy device to present the case of the general public without interfering with provincial rights.

Much discussion has turned on the illegal nature of the strike. In six provinces the law provides for conciliation machinery and forbids any strike until a certain period has elapsed after the report of the conciliation board. The union called its men out before the process of conciliation was started and thus defied the law. By this act the union has weakened its case and strengthened the hands of employers who demand a return to work as the condition for

the resumption of negotiations.

The main sufferers from a prolongation of the strike are the farmers of this country whose spring pigs are just reaching prime weights, and whose grass cattle will lose flesh from this time as the weather becomes colder. Their loss is more serious than the temporary inconvenience suffered by the buying public, regrettable though that may be. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture at its Kelowna meeting declares that farmers are faced with a loss on \$75,000,000 worth of livestock, slaughter bound, unless an agreement is reached soon. The loss is proportionately higher in the West because of the 21 plants closed. Seven are in the East and 14 in the West, and in the last year for which figures are available 53 per cent of the total Canadian packinghouse output came from the West.

With respect to the illegality of the strike the C.F.A. at Kelowna properly expressed regret that a strike or any business which so vitally affects the farm population of Canada, and the consuming public, should be called until every effort at negotiation and conciliation provided by law and practice had been exhausted. That statement will receive wide endorsement. Defiance or contempt for the law is not permitted of the individual. It should not be permitted of any organized body of individuals. The same consequences may follow in Canada as did in the U.S., notwithstanding all the obstacles of our constitutional set-up.

Freight Rates on Grain

The increase on export grain rates between lower lake ports and lower St. Lawrence ports, effective September 25, was followed by a rail-way notification of a 30 per cent increase on certain preferential rates effective November 1. Both these announcements came as a distinct shock to western shippers who were confident that rate increases would be left in abeyance until the Transport Commissioners had ruled on the 30 per cent general advance asked for last year

The September increase applies to grain shipped from ports like Midland, Sarnia, Port Mc-Nichol, and Colborne to Montreal. It involves an additional 2.1 cents a bushel on wheat and corresponding amounts on other grains. As the British wheat agreement is based on prices in store Fort William-Port Arthur, it may appear that the rate increase imposed on grain after it has left the lakehead will come out of the pockets of Britons. This is true only for the present. The new contract for the 1948 crop is being negotiated now, and it is certain that British buyers will take cognizance of increased transportation rates and set their price that much lower. High price or low price, the farmer pays in the end. It is to be noted that only a portion of the export movement is trans-shipped between lower lake and river ports so that the full effect of the increase does not fall on all exported grain.

The second increase will raise the rates on certain commodities which were voluntarily adopted by the carriers to meet truck and water competition. The rates which will come into effect will be equal to or below the maxima allowed by the Transport Board, but the additional toll on shippers will be considerable.

The wheat farmer's income is still determined by a controlled price, and as long as this continues he is entitled to the protection of stabilized prices for what he has to buy, not least important of which is shipping services. Even if this were not so, in the language of Premier Garson of Manitoba, "it would be a fundamentally bad policy for Canada to allow a temporary period of high export prices to be used to fasten onto our exporting industries a structure of high and inflexible costs which could not be borne under more competitive conditions."

The hearings before the Board of Transport Commissioners last spring were featured by the evidence brought forward by counsel for the four western provinces to show that revenues then current were ample to cover the costs of providing satisfactory rail services. That evidence has not yet been contradicted. Neither has the Board had an opportunity to deliver its

judgment on the railways' application for a 30 per cent increase. Grain shippers had every right to expect that rates would remain unchanged pending the Board's decision. In the circumstances they will feel that the carriers have taken a wrong step in national policy with indecent haste.

The Inconstant Dollar

There is one class of individual to whom freedom of speech should be denied. It consists of those who say that Canada has only 3.32 people to the square mile while the United States has 44.23, England 685 and so on around the world. Such comparisons are particularly odious. They conveniently neglect 10-storey apartment houses and avoid all considerations of soil and climate. Such people take in all the millions of square miles of ice, rock and tundra in Canada's northern hinterland, the great stretches of sub-marginal soil where nothing but trees will grow, and small ones at that, the vast areas where limited rainfall thins out the population and the very considerable proportion of Canada's surface occupied by the Rocky Mountains. Then they make the comparison with highly industrialized countries, or with countries whose agriculture is largely of the knee and hoe type, and try to prove something or other by it. There ought to be a law.

In the same category are those who compare say the amount of Canada's exports and imports, or bank clearings, or the price of beans in 1939 and 1947 and express the difference in dollars. They forgot, or never knew, that the term dollar is purely relative. It is like a rubber band, which no one would be allowed to use in making measurements. Governments make very strict laws and regulations regarding some standards of measure. They send inspectors around to see that scales tell the truth about weight. A yard is a fixed standard based on the length of a rod kept underground in Washington to ensure a constant temperature and measured through a telescope from the other side of the room lest the heat from a human body should increase its length infinitesimally. Air pressure is taken into account when calibrating master thermometers because water freezes or boils at different temperatures at the bottom of a hill than at the top of it. The cubic inches in a gallon are worked out to the fourth decimal place. But when it comes to the dollar it doesn't mean the same thing at two different places or on two consecutive days. It is the same with the pound sterling, the franc or any other monetary unit. In fact the Italians are the only people who have an appropriate name for their unit of currency. They call it the lire.



"A little service, please."

Palestine Immigration

In Palestine misfortune comes upon misfortune's heels. In the whole record of political terrorism there has been no worse crime than the brutal and cold-blooded murder of the British sergeants. It is, as responsible Jews have said, a greater blow to the Jewish people than to Britain. Its effects on the Palestine occupation army may well be imagined. In the face of such tactics it become increasingly difficult to maintain calmness and discipline pending a fair solution to the problem of Jewish immigration as the result of Britain's appeal to UN.

A recent issue of a widely circulated weekly published in New York makes an open bid for donations to carry on illegitimate immigration to Palestine by air, landing passengers at air strips known only to the Jewish underground. A request reaches this desk as we write, to sell books of enclosed tickets, the proceeds of which are to be used for sheltering immigrants after their arrival in Palestine. From the Congress Bulletin, organ of the Jewish relief organization in Montreal, we learn that American Jews have already appropriated \$170,000,000 for Palestine "reconstruction" and that their co-religionists in Canada aim at raising another \$2,000,000 "to maintain the morale of European Jews who are becoming restive as a result of failures to resettle them."

We do not pretend to know how these funds are being used but it is to be hoped money raised under the guise of relief is not being appropriated to aggravate Britain's difficulty in administering her most troublesome mandate. And when this assurance is given it would be more convincing if it could be accompanied by some inkling as to the source of the funds which support the present illegal movement of immigrants to the Holy Land.

Green Pastures

Because the American farmer is selling his export commodities for their full world market price, and because he is enjoying an extraordinarily high range of prices for produce domestically consumed, there is a tendency in Canada to conclude that American agriculture is luxuriating. Evidence submitted to the federal government's agricultural committee during its extended hearings in Washington this summer will dispel that idea.

The fact is that things are not too sunny for a vast number of American farmers, faced as they are with costs which overshadow their high income. Many of them make too little money, according to census figures, and thousands of them have been ruined by temporary gluts and loss of war-time markets. Despite the fact that agricultural production rose steadily from 1919 to 1929, gross farm income dropped from \$16.9 billion to \$12.9 billion, and farm wealth declined from \$79 billion to \$58.1 billion.

Present price support schemes do not give aid in proportion to the need. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the farmers sell 50 per cent of farm commodities reaching market. It is obvious, so witnesses said, that this top ten per cent have been getting the largest share of the benefits. It is likened by political opponents to the help-the-rich schemes of the Republican party.

While this is a domestic issue on which outsiders will have no opinion, it discloses a hardening attitude on the part of American agriculture which is bound to make itself felt in any effort to adjust the U.S. export-import balance. President Truman's brush with the wool growers earlier in the summer is probably the first in a series with different farm interests. The president is deeply conscious of the connection between trade and foreign affairs, but he will meet well entrenched opposition from all sides in securing the passage of adequate measures to place European, and for that matter Canadian, trade with the United States on a secure

foundation.

Under the PEACE TOWER

N all my years around Parliament Hill, I cannot recall a time when politics was so much to the background, and economics so much to the fore. Everybody who can write these days has to be an authority on finance,

willynilly. Even the imminent York-Sunbury byelection, with the fate of a cabinet minister at stake, hardly stirs those who usually are easily stirred.

urrea.

The plain truth is that the dollar crisis is something that hits us all, and hits us hard In essence, we have two choices. The first is we can pan-handle. The second is, we can help ourselves. In the first instance, we try to see what we can get out of Washington. In the second, we adopt austerity.

In this crisis, it is well to hope for the former but better to be ready for the latter. The easiest way out of our dilemma, a dilemma which finds us going into debt to the United States at the rate of \$100,000,000 or thereabouts a month, is of course to seek assistance in the States. We can always fall back on austerity if we have to; but it's always cosier on the ship than in the lifeboats. Therefore, the idea is to stick with the ship as long as we can.

No matter what we do in the States, it is, after all, a kind of glorified pan-handling. We can ask for a straight and outright loan. The idea would be that this might tide us over for a couple of difficult years. By 1950, almost anything could happen. Britain might be back on her feet, European nations might be able to export, the Orient might have resurrected her economy

Then there are those who think that they might get something via the Marshall Plan. The very best advice I can get is that we should not depend too much upon the Marshall Plan. Down south, they solve a trouble by saying: Manana. Whatever the crisis, don't face it now, but—Manana. If you know of their ways down there, you know that nothing is ever solved by—Manana. Well, we've got a sort of Manana complex, which we call the Marshall Plan. If Manana—which means tomorrow—never comes, neither may the Marshall Plan.

First of all, we are on the eve of an election year in United States. That means we must view everything likely to happen there through the distorted lenses of elections. The Republicans, who did so well in the off-year elections of 1946, and who now dominate Congress, feel that 1948 offers them a real chance to win. They have a better opportunity of electing a Republican president in 1948 than they have had since they put Herbert Hoover atop the prosperity bandwagon and let him ride into power in 1928. By the same token, the Democrats, already a minority in Congress, foresee the greatest possibility of their losing an election since Al Smith and his Brown Derby led them once more into the political wilderness, also in '28. It is pretty obvious then that the Democrats will do nothing to jeopardize their chances. It must be equally apparent that the Republicans have small enthusiasm for any project that will lose them a single vote.

LET'S take a second look at the Republicans. They are traditionally isolationist, in the same way the Progressive Conservative party here has always been traditionally high tariff. (The National Policy of 1878, plus the 1911 battle cry of No Truck Nor Trade With Yankees are two items worth recalling, in this connection). Now not only are the Republicans isolationist, but they are closer to Wall Street. In a sense,

when Wall Street speaks, the Republican Party speaks, and vice versa. Neither is it very keen about the Marshall Plan. First of all, it was started by the Democrats, and that damns it anyway. Secondly, they believe that the Marshall Plan is throwing good money after bad. Thirdly, the traditional isolationist policy is strict-

ly Us For Ourselves. These people are quite willing to let the rest of the world go by. It is no use for us to argue about the morals or ethics of this; the plain fact is that this is the way a good many million Republicans feel about things.

The hostility to the Marshall Plan also indicates at least nothing better than a lukewarm interest in any help to Canada. Certainly, the U.S would not object to a straight loan, as such, it that is what we want. But it would be a coldblooded cash proposition. The Marshall Plan is really give-away. It envisions the judicious giving away of money to get the world back on its feet. It is seen as the preferable alternative to letting the world starve, or more likely, slip into a Soviet satellite. Canada, of course, would hope to benefit in the same sort of way, not perhaps by a straight handout as such, but from some kind of gift, or arrangement, which would permit us to keep on importing what we seem to want, from the United States.

But no matter what name you give it, I cannot see that we are doing anything else but going hat in hand to United States. Nor are they likely to succumb to the argument that we offer a great market for U.S. goods.

HAVE heard a cynical United States newspaperman in the Press Gallery say: "We're not worrying. The world's so short of goods that if we don't sell to you, somebody else will buy our U.S. goods."

That sounds too much like the truth to be funny. At this moment, we are not doing Uncle Sam any particular favor. The favor is on his side. This then, puts us in a humiliating position, and it makes us, as I said at the outset, glorified pan-handlers.

Now my contacts around this Olympus of ours talk frequently on the phone to New York, and sometimes those phones happen to be in Wall Street. If you accept this as an authority, I can tell you that Wall Street advises us not to count on anything. They indicate that next year is a presidential year, that the Republicans are not interested in any Marshall Plan, and that any

help, if given, will be very small. In other words, the Yanks aren't coming-

This puts us back where I began, with austerity. Much that we import from United States we need, but much we could do without.

Turn to page 38

More

The opinions expressed Under the Peace Tower are those of our correspondent and not necessarily those of the Country Guide.

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These good beef cattle represent marketings estimated at \$75 million, which would be seriously affected by a prolonged packinghouse strike.

Packinghouse Strike

Welfare of farmers threatened by illegal strike of 14,000 employees

HE meat packing industry in Canada was a \$500-million business in 1945, the last year for which the Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued a report. In 1946, Canada Packers Limited, the largest of the packing companies and the only one to publicize its operations widely, sold products to the value of \$209 million, of which \$163 million was spent for the purchase of livestock and other materials. In all, there are 152 slaughtering establishments in Canada, of which 110 are in eastern Canada. About 40 per cent of Canada's meat is uninspected; and of the remainder about threequarters, or 45 per cent of the total is processed by the "Big Three," Canada Packers, Swift Canadian Company, and Burns and Company.

Wage earners in the three big companies are organized into unions of the United Packinghouse Workers of America and number about 14,000. Negotiations for a new wage agreement have been under way for several months, in which the Union has been seeking an average wage increase of 17½ cents per hour and a basic wage of 92 cents per hour. The 3,500 employees of Swifts struck on August 27, the company having offered only three cents. The other two large companies offered a five-cent increase, which was not satisfactory to the Union and 10,-000 additional workers were called out. This produced a nation-wide tie-up of the meat packing industry, which, as The Country Guide goes to press, has tied up 20 Big-Three plants and eight others, just as the fall run of livestock

is about to begin. Already, reports from Alberta indicate that prices at community livestock auction sales have fallen off to the extent of one cent or more per pound as a result of the strike; and the directors of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, meeting at Kelowna, estimated the value of livestock likely to be affected by the strike, if continued, at \$75 million. That the farmer's stake in the controversy is recognized by both parties has been evidenced by statements issued for farm consumption by the Union and by each of the Big Three.

Eight of the nine provincial governments and the Dominion government are in an unhappy position as a result of the strike, because of problems connected with labor jurisdiction. At this writing, a conference of labor ministers of seven provinces has just concluded, at which Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick joined in a request for a common conciliator, suggesting L. W. Brockington. British Columbia had agreed in principle. Prince Edward Island announced that it would take over the packing plant at Charlottetown and operate it, to provide a continuing market for Island livestock, especially hogs; and Saskatchewan which likewise has no compulsory conciliation law, has stated that the government will, if necessary, operate the strike-bound plants, under the Trade Union Act. New Brunswick and British Columbia have stated that they will not operate plants in these provinces. Quebec declared the strike illegal and stripped the Union of its rights as a bargaining agency.

T the Toronto labor ministers' con-A ference, six of the provinces—those with compulsory conciliation lawsdeclared the strike illegal. Existing conciliation legislation is fairly uniform, requiring peaceful negotiation, followed if necessary, by application for conciliation. This, in turn, provides for the appointment of a conciliation officer, who reports to the minister of labor. If he reports unfavorably, an arbitration board is appointed, which in turn reports to the minister. If conciliation has been found impossible, a strike may not take place within a further period of 14 days. Packinghouse workers struck without a request being made to any province for conciliation. No province except Quebec has intervened to make good the law, which provides penalties for failure to comply. Reason given: Fining unions, or jailing local leaders, would not advance settlement of the dispute and would create martyrs unnecessarily. Reason not given: Votes would be lost through alienation of labor support generally.

Western stock men, in fear of heavy losses because of inability to market finished animals, have urged opening of the U.S. market, even though this might raise retail beef prices 10 to 12 cents per pound. Directors of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture supported this view to the extent of urging establishment of an export control board, which would equalize among producers the higher U.S. price benefit and shut off the export flow when the strike was settled. Arguments against opening up the U.S. market now are that it would: (1) drain Canada of beef supplies already limited by the strike; (2) lead to increases in



Safeway's Farm Reporter keeps tab on how farmers make work easier, cut operating costs, improve crop quality. Safeway reports, (not necessarily endorses) his findings because we Safeway people know that exchanging good ideas helps every body, including us. After all, almost a fourth of our customers are farm folks.

ALL-WEATHER CAB

Cliff Simpson of Unity, Saskatchewan, beats the bad weather with this cab on his tractor. Built of 1-inch angle iron welded together, Mr. Simpson has hinged the windows together with a door at the back for the driver. Can be used in all kinds of weather and day and night operations.

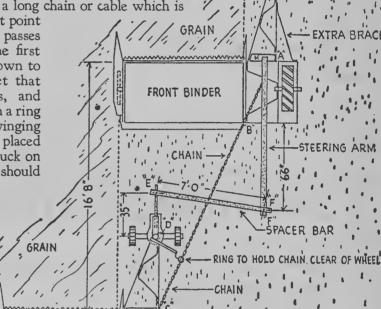


TRACTOR HITCH FOR TWO 8-FOOT HORSE-DRAWN BINDERS

The hitch for the first binder must be redesigned to suit the tractor. The long pole and tongue truck is removed and replaced with a short, well-braced tongue. The hook-up to the tractor should be strong and solid as it carries the strain of both binders.

The rear binder is pulled by a long chain or cable which is

fastened to the front binder at point A in the drawing. The chain passes underneath the frame of the first binder and should be held down to keep it clear of the sprocket that drives the platform canvas, and should also be guided through a ring or loop at point B to avoid swinging on corners. A similar guide is placed to the right of the tongue truck on the second binder. The chain should be about 18 feet long.



REAR BINDER

The success of the hitch depends upon getting the binders spaced properly and the steering arms of the right length. Arm F, G, H (a 4x4 or strong piece of angle

iron) should be clamped to the first binder at G and H. Before pulling into the field, the tractor should be hitched to binder and driven around the yard with final adjustments being made after a try-out on turning corners.

This hitch was developed by E. A. Hardy, Professor of Agricultural Engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

AN IDEA SAFEWAY CUSTOMERS LIKE IS CASH-AND-CARRY

It costs a grocer more to run his business when he maintains charge accounts for his customers and delivers purchases to homes in his own truck. To "make back" such extra expenses a grocer needs to sell at higher retail prices.

The Safeway cash-and-carry idea saves delivery costs and extra bookkeeping. Customers pay for what

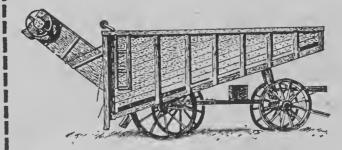
they buy when they buy it—and do their own "delivering." So at the store—just as along the way from producer to consumer—efficient distribution helps Safeway keep down costs. This benefits farm families both as producers and consumers. For Safeway buys at going prices or higher and—by eliminating needless marketing costs—makes it possible for more people to afford the food they need.

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- Safeway buys regularly, offering producers a steady market; when purchasing from farmers Safeway accepts no brokerage either directly or indirectly
- Safeway pays going prices or better, never offers a price lower than producer quotes
- Safeway stands ready to help move surpluses
- Safeway sells at lower prices, made possible by direct, less costly distribution . . . so consu mers can afford to increase their con sumption.

SAFEWAY - the neighborhood grocery stores

GRAIN ELEVATOR AND STORAGE BIN

This grain elevator and storage bin is in use on the farm of Clarence Johnk, Milo, Alberta. The grain hopper holds about 300 bushels of wheat and has elevator for unloading wheat into trucks. An engine of two and one-half horsepower on top of the hopper operates the elevator to unload the wheat. When grain trucks are full, combine dumps wheat into this storage bin. Grain is later transferred to truck by elevator to be hauled to the railroad cars or permanent storage elevator.





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the cost of living, already high enough to cause concern among consumers; (3) make it difficult, if not impossible, to fill Canada's contract with the United Kingdom; (4) imply acquiescence by the Dominion government in a strike already declared illegal by six provincial governments; (5) prolong settlement of the strike itself, at a time when a further 21 unions (independent), including 15 in the West and six in Ontario, have taken strike votes over similar wage demands.

Canada's 1947 Crop

THE second wheat crop estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on September 15 was for an outturn of 329,400,000 bushels of wheat in the prairie provinces. This compares with 400 million bushels last year, and represents a decline of 17.7 per cent. Although the crop is a disappointment to many individuals, to the country as a whole, and to the needy in other countries, it is actually only nine per cent below the 25-year average and 10.5 per cent below the average of the past ten years, which included two crops of more than 500 million bushels and another of 494 million. In 1941, 1943 and 1945, the prairie provinces took off wheat crops of less than 300 million bushels, so that we have had alternating poor and good crops on the prairies since the 1938-40 period, when there were three good crops in succession following the disastrous year of 1937, which saw the smallest wheat crop since 1914.

All old-timers remember the marvellous crop of 1915, when 360 million bushels were harvested. An interesting coincidence is that the average prairie crop for the last 25 years has almost exactly equalled the big crop of 1915. That was Manitoba's record wheat year, when she harvested 69.3 million bushels. At that time, however, Alberta's crop was less than the crop in Manitoba. While Saskatchewan grew a record crop up to that time (224 million bushels), she has twice since then produced more than 300 million bushels, and has established a 25-year average of 192 million bushels. Alberta, which had never produced 100 million bushels up to 1926, with the exception of one 144-millionbushel crop in 1923, has built up a 25year average of 119 million bushels.

Since 1909, the three prairie provinces have produced more than 11.5 billion bushels of wheat, of which more than nine billion bushels have been produced since 1921. Moreover, none of these figures includes the current 1947 crop.

It will be seen, therefore, that Manitoba this year has a wheat crop only one million bushels above her long-time average, while Saskatchewan is down 12 million bushels below her long-time average, and Alberta is 14 million bushels down, according to present

Early reports of protein content, however, show a higher protein for nearly 3,724 samples tested earlier in the season, than last year. Last year's average protein content was 13.8 per cent, whereas the tests this year show 14.4 per cent, with Saskatchewan highest at 15 per cent, Alberta next with 13.6 per cent, and Manitoba lowest with 13.5 per cent.

Hog Population Increasing

HOG numbers in Canada as at June 1, 1947, were approximately at the same figure as at January 1, 1940. The June 1 survey, conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, indicates that hog numbers increased from 4,910,000 as at June 1, 1946, to 5,473,000 as of the same date this year. The increase amounted to 11.5 per cent, and indicates that the rapid decrease from the peak of 8,148,000 in June, 1943, is giving way

to an increase from the low point reached last year.

All provinces in Canada show some increase, Alberta indicating the least, with only 2.6 per cent. In Saskatchewan, the increase is 6.7 per cent and in Manitoba 12.7 per cent. British Columbia's smaller hog population of 76,600 indicates an increase of 13.8 per cent. Biggest percentage increases occurred in Quebec (22.3 per cent) and in Nova Scotia (23.5 per cent) Ontario, with 2,244,700 hogs showed an increase of 11.5 per cent or exactly the same as the Dominion average. New Brunswick, with an increase of 18.7 per cent, and Prince Edward Island with 6.8 per cent, complete the coast-to-coast picture.

About Livestock

BEGINNING September 1, the United Kingdom now pays \$29 for 100 pounds of Grade A Wiltshire bacon, f.o.b. Canadian seaboard, and will continue to pay this price until the end of 1948. As a result, a further increase in hog prices to farmers was therefore effective on Monday, September 1. Concurrently, the Canadian Meat Board announced that domestic hog quotas were abolished as at the same date, which means that there now are no restrictions on the slaughter of hogs, or on the distribution of pork for Canadian consumption.

THE Dominion Department of Agriculture announced September 15 that cattle, sheep, goats, other ruminants and swine from Scotland may now be imported into Canada, owing to freedom from foot-and-mouth disease in Scotland since early this year.

Animals must be embarked at a Scottish port and the vessel carrying them must come direct to Canada without touching any English, Irish or foreign port. Imported animals must also be accompanied by an affidavit certifying that the animals have been in Scotland for 60 days preceding embarkation, and that the feed taken on board with them was grown in Scotland.

THE Minister of National Health and Welfare announced in September that Canadian livestock owners may now buy penicillin and sulphas for veterinary use without prescription, and on the signature of the purchaser. Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act have been amended to make this possible. It is now possible for any livestock owner known to a druggist, or introduced by someone who is known to the druggist, to purchase sulphas or penicillin for veterinary use. The druggist must keep a record of such sales in the same way that sales of poison are recorded. It is provided too that only packages of these drugs overprinted as intended for veterinary use, can be sold in this way, and that ordinary packages of these drugs may not be sold for veterinary use.

INTERESTING to Holstein cattle breeders in Canada, who some months ago supplied Britain with a large consignment of purebred animals, are the results of a British Friesian sale in England in June. The Farmer and Stock Breeder comments on "the enormous number of breeders in attendance and the exceptional display of bidding," when four-figure guinea prices were paid for 26 out of 171 animals sold to make a general average of £751 (\$3,025).

Two herds contributed to this sale, the dams of the heifers from one herd averaging 12,060 pounds of 3.42 per cent milk for 303 lactations; and the dams of the heifers sold from the other herd averaging 11,721 pounds of 3.54 per cent milk for 342 lactations. Their combined

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vators assures the continuance of this necessary protection of your financial interest and that of every farmer-member.



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needs at U.G.G. Elevators assures the extension and improvement of U.G.G. farmer-member services.



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U.G.G. Elevators help develop and expand this valuable service to Agriculture.

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urgent aspect of the food production

program; and while it will be impos-

sible to purchase as much as will be

needed, owing to the world cereal short-

age, the Ministers of Food, and Agricul-

ture recognize the basic importance of

this problem in relation to increased

T was calculated that the number of

September, 1948, the great majority of

these will have been repatriated. One

hundred thousand addition agricultural

laborers will be needed, and it is ex-

pected that the government may find it

impossible to fully meet this need. Ten

thousand foreign laborers, including

Poles and European volunteer workers,

have already been recruited, but it is

hoped to double the number by early

Housing is closely related to labor.

Agriculture has been relieved of the

call-up for military service, which will

enable British farms to retain 15,000

prisoners of war working in Britain in September would be 110,000, and that by

livestock production.

next summer.

averages were 11,880 pounds of 3.48 per cent milk for 645 lactations.

THE chairman of the International Wool Secretariat, Dr. Edgar Booth, told New Zealand sheep farmers not long ago that, "Only about threequarters of a pound of scoured wool is available for each person in the world. Some have never worn wool, some could never afford to_buy wool, but even the total number of potential small buyers means that wool will be in short supply, if its merits are pressed on the world market."

British Farming Gets Its Chance

British farmers given a long-sought opportunity for unrestricted production

WHEN the British trade and financial crisis came to a head at the beginning of August, British farming was given the green light with all speed limits removed. From now on the British farmer can produce to his heart's content, knowing that he will receive top priority for labor, housing and production machinery. Prices have been geared upward, with minimum average annual prices for livestock and livestock products guaranteed for the most part, to 1951-52. Production goals are sky high, with all active controls wiped out. Farmers are warned, however, that should individual farmers' output not add up to efficient national production, the government may find it necessary to declare a national emergency and invoke clause 95, Part 2, of The Agriculture Act, by which it is empowered to issue cropping orders

The production program presented to British agriculture is an increase of 20 per cent, or more than \$400 million by value, by 1951-52. This increase would, according to government figures, increase British agricultural production to approximately 15 per cent above the peak output of the war years, since about four per cent reduction has taken place since the end of the war. Present agricultural production is estimated at 2.4 billion dollars.

During the next five years, very strong emphasis will be placed on bacon, eggs, beef, mutton, cereals (including flax) and milk. It is expected that about half of the increased production will be secured from higher efficiency in agriculture, and the other half from additions to the resources within agriculture. Stated briefly, the production of meat and eggs is to be expanded, part of the wartime increase in wheat and barley production is to be restored, and 400,000 acres of flax added to the crop area, the latter, not only because there is a world shortage of linseed oil but because for every three tons of flax produced, two tons of linseed oil cake become available for livestock feeders.

Overall, 90 per cent of the expansion will come from meat, milk and eggs. The acreage of potatoes and sugar beets will be reduced, but wheat is to be increased from 41 per cent to 60 per cent above pre-war, barley 23 per cent, or 179 per cent above pre-war, oats six per cent, or 56 per cent above pre-war. In livestock production, eggs are to go up 74 per cent, or 52 per cent above prewar, pigs 60 per cent, or eight per cent below pre-war, beef 17 per cent, or 10 per cent above pre-war, mutton and lamb seven per cent, and milk 16 per

THE government program also includes four new subsidies or payments to agriculture. These include the payment of about \$16 per acre for grass land three years old or older, which is plowed up between August 21, 1947, and December 31, 1949, and resown, or sown to approved crops and approved by the County Agricultural Executive Committee. Payment will be made of the same amount per head for steer calves, and \$12 per head for heifer calves of approved types, if raised to one year old. Details of a scheme for encouraging grass conservation are to be announced later. The fourth item includes free service from bulls of beef breeds maintained at artificial insemination centres.

New. prices have already been announced for 1947, and in advance until 1949 for all principal farm products. In most cases, guaranteed prices are seasonal averages. Price increases in most cases are substantial and have three objects in view. First is to make available to farmers, money with which to purchase breeding animals, machinery and other means of production. Second is to allow for an increase in the wages of farm labor allowed by the Agricultural Wages Board on August 19; and the third object is to establish new and



Elevators at Cabri, Sask., one of the few nine-elevator points on the prairies.

higher minimum prices for livestock products up to 1951-52, "as a measure of confidence and stability."

Farm machinery will be provided to the greatest extent possible, principally by restricting exports and importing such items as combines and pickup balers. Owing to serious world shortage of heavy tractors and equipment, it is not expected that demand can be fully met for these items. It is expected that British production of medium and light tractors and equipment will be sufficient to almost meet the demand.

Every possible effort will be made to increase the amount of available feeding stuffs. This is regarded as a most additional men. For the housing of workers, the highest degree of priority will be granted to houses for agricultural workers, as well as miners and key workers in development areas.

In all aspects of this increased production program for agriculture, the government will have the full support and co-operation of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, and presumably its sister organizations in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The president, James Turner, who is also president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, issued a stirring challenge to the farmers of Britain to justify the faith which the



These big, costly, self-propelled combines will hum more happily next year, now that a two-dollar wheat price has been arranged with Britain for the 1948 crop.

government was placing in them. Mr. Turner said in part:

"The size of this opportunity is a measure of our responsibility as an industry: To serve the people of this country by safeguarding our food supplies, not from hostile attacks this time, but from the more insidious and paralyzing possibility of economic catastrophe (or national bankruptcy)."

Dairy Commission for New Zealand NEW ZEALAND is an important dairy exporting country. Cheese and butter to the value of more than \$90 million were exported in 1942.

For a long time New Zealand has had some form of public control of the export of dairy products, in the form of export boards and commissions. In August of this year a dairy industry commission was set up to carry out a scheme which had been developed out of protracted discussions between the dairy industry and the New Zealand government. New Zealand has not only a Dairy Board and a Dairy Industry Council, both of which had approved the scheme for a dairy industry commission, but it was also approved at the recent Dominion Dairy Conference.

There had been a great deal of satisfaction in New Zealand with the previous controls, owing to the amount of political influence which, it was charged, had been exerted from time to time. It was this influence, chiefly from the office of the Minister of Finance, which representatives of New Zealand dairymen fought hardest to have completely removed in the new set-up.

Like all farm producers, New Zealand dairymen want a price based on the cost of production. They also want stability, and a guaranteed price. They do not want their affairs mixed up with party politics. Consequently it has been viewed as a substantial victory for the producers of New Zealand that the government agreed to pass legislation setting up the New Zealand Dairy Commission, on a basis agreed on between the government and the dairy industry. This Commission is to consist of seven members, all to be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister of Marketing. Three of these will be nominated by the Minister and appointed after consultation with the Dairy Board. Three will be appointed from a panel of six nominated by the Dairy Board. and the Minister will consult the Dairy Board before making his recommendations to the Governor-General. The seventh man will be chairman of the board, who will be nominated by the minister after consultation with the Dairy Board. His appointment will be for five years and he will be eligible for reappointment as chairman or as a member of the Commission. Other members of the Commission will also be appointed for five years and will be eligible for reappointment.

It is provided that the chairman of the Commission shall not be a member of the Dairy Board or of either House of the Legislative Assembly. Neither shall he hold any paid office under the Crown or statutory corporation.

The Primary Products Marketing Act of New Zealand was amended to give the Dairy Commission authority to handle, pool, advertise, transport and store any dairy produce covered by the Act. The Commission will make such arrangements as it sees fit for the shipment of dairy produce intended for export, for insurance, and for all matters necessary for the exercise of any of its powers. It may also make its own arrangements for the sale of dairy produce and will possess authority to purchase f.o.b. all butter and cheese for export. It may regulate local market costs and, most important of all, determine the guaranteed price to be paid for primary dairy products, having regard to the general economic stability of New Zealand.



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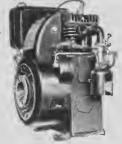
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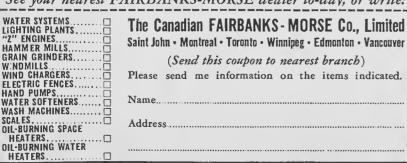
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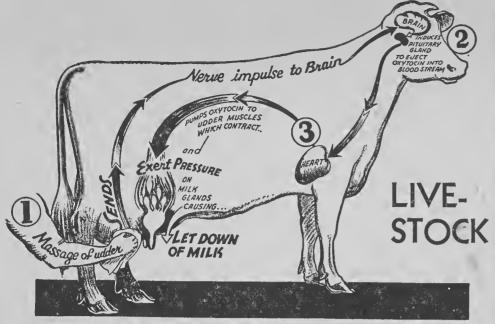
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THE COUNTRY GUIDE



[Univ. Wisconsin diagram.

The cow responds to certain stimuli and "lets down" her milk. The diagram explains why.

Get All The Milk Quickly

By T. L. TOWNSEND

Imitate the calf who doesn't waste minutes at meal-time

T is not often that one may obtain something for nothing, but the good milker will extract more milk in less time and have less udder trouble than the poor milker, so the cost of the extra effort is something less than nothing.

High milk production per cow can be obtained only if the cow is milked properly, has the inherent ability to produce a lot of milk, is fed enough of the right kind of feed, and has good care. Any one of these may be the limiting factor in milk production, but the importance of proper milking is most often ignored. A poor job of milking will ruin the production of a wellfed, potentially high-producing cow, and most cows would give more milk than they do from the feed they are fed, if the job of milking was better understood and the principles of good milking put into wider practice.

Dr. E. W. Petersen of the University of Minnesota has made a special study of how a cow's udder functions and how milk is produced. His talks and moving pictures have been heard and seen by thousands, but the job of milking, in most dairy barns, continues to be poor. Everyone knows that there are good and poor hand milkers, but there is an even greater difference between milking machine operators. We train all of our machine men in the science as well as the art of good milking, but only a few develop into top milkers. A poor milker will dry a cow up in due time and a top operator will get several thousand pounds of milk more in a year from a high-producing, well-fed cow than what an average good milker may do. Some cows are much more temperamental than others and it is the good operator who gets the most out of this kind of cow.

Most good cows will milk well for the first few months after they freshen. The difference between good and poor milking shows up in the latter part of the lactation. Dr. Petersen makes the statement: "The best way to dry up a cow is to quit milking her. The next best is to put a poor milker on her. It takes longer, but it gets the same result."

Good milking improves production, reduces udder trouble and the time required to do the job.

When the calf starts to suckle its mother, the warmth and moisture of the mouth acting on two nerves on the end of the teat, telegraph a message through the cow's nervous system to the brain which, in turn, transmits the message to the pituitary gland at the back of the head. In response, a hormone is dumped into the blood stream, in which it is carried to the cow's udder in from a minute to a minute and a

half. There it acts on the muscles surrounding the very small milk cells, called alveoli. These contract and squeeze the milk into the ducts which lead to the teat canal and the cow is then ready to be milked. The same reflex action must take place whether the cow is milked by hand or machine. If milking is delayed and not completed in from seven to 10 minutes the effects of the hormone wear off and the cow does not continue to let down her milk. Thus, a cow should first be properly conditioned to let down her milk. Then she must be milked immediately and fast. There can be no serious delay between conditioning the cow and milking her. This is true whether the cow is milked by hand or by machine.

Some cows are easily conditioned and let down their milk readily; some of them too readily for their own good, unless milked at once. Others have to be humored. Most cows will let down their milk readily if their udders are vigorously massaged with a woollen cloth that has been in a pail of warm water, over 120 degrees Fahrenheit, but under 150 degrees and partially wrung out. As soon as the milk fills the teat and distends it, the milking machine should be put on, but not before. This saves time in the end and cleaner milk is produced.

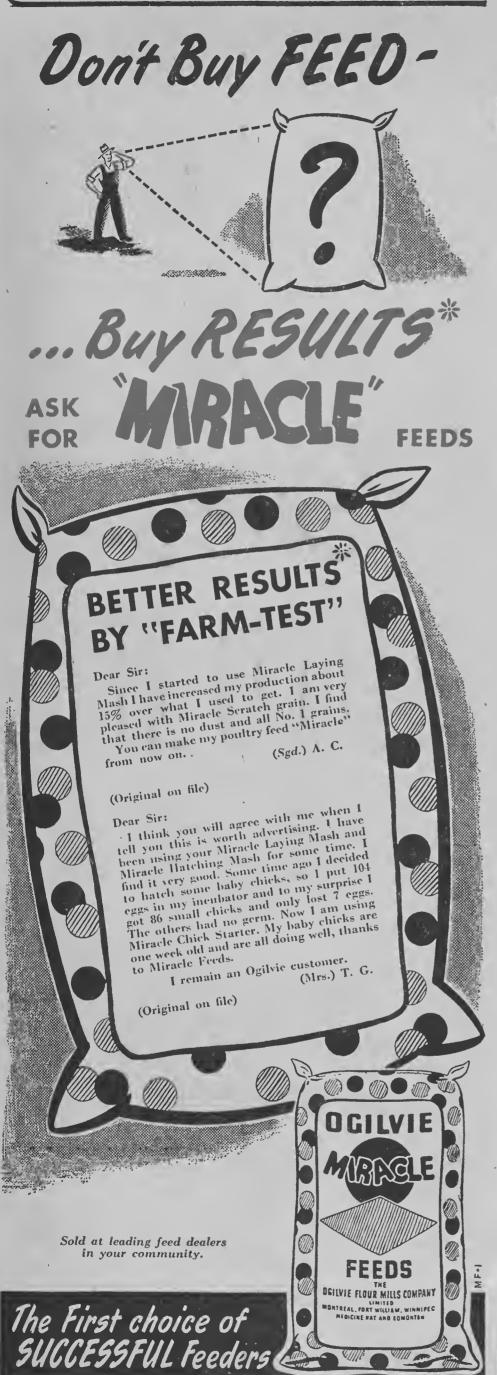
The calf never takes much more than about half of the teat in its mouth at one time, otherwise it would cut off the milk supply. Likewise, a milking machine should not be allowed to creep up on the cow's teat and cut off the circulation and the milk flow, which it will do if it reaches the cow's udder. As soon as the milk stops flowing, the teat cups should be removed, as they will injure the tender membranes if there is no milk in the teat to cushion the action of the milker.

GOOD machine milking requires that the teat cups be not put on until the cow has let down her milk; that they be not permitted to creep up too far and cut off circulation; and that they be removed as soon as milk stops flowing. The machine itself must be maintained in good condition, the vacuum at the proper level, the pulsations at the right speed, the air line clean, free from hair and dirt and properly installed, and the milk liners, or inflations, in the best of condition.

Good hand milking consists in properly preparing the cow for milking so as to get a prompt "let-down" of milk, as with machine milking, and then taking it away from the cow as quickly as possible. The teat should be squeezed with the full hand and with strong, even pressure, allowing the teat to fill completely, and squeezing out all of the



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milk at each stroke. Fast, jerky motions do not get the milk as well as a strong, even full hand squeeze. It takes more forearm muscle, but is the main difference between good and poor hand milking. Good hand milkers, as well as the good machine operators, must know their cows and treat each one as an individual in order to get the best response. One cannot beat the milk out of a cow with a milking stool or pitch fork, but she will let down her milk readily if she likes the operator.

In large herds where there are several men required to do the milking we have found that the best work is done when the operator handles only one machine, or one unit, but does the whole job. He prepares his cow for milking, puts the machine on at the right time, watches that the teat cups do not creep up and takes them off the moment the milk stops flowing. He strips the cow with the machine, checks her afterwards to make sure that there is a complete milk-out, and weighs the milk from each cow. Each man has his own string of cows and will milk around 15 cows an hour. Some may do better than that, but no milker likes to finish 20 minutes after the others are through, so everyone "steps on it" while the milking job is underway.

In a recent study made in the State of Washington, of machine milking on commercial dairy farms, some interesting facts were ascertained. This was an analysis of how milking was actually being done on representative farms in that State, not necessarily the best farms or the poorest.

Machines were left on cows an average of 5.9 minutes in the 37 dairies studied. The time ranged from 3.1 to 14.7 minutes per cow. In only four cases were the machines removed in the recommended three to four-minute interval.

Only two dairies used one man to one machine. In one case the operator averaged 4.6 minutes per cow, the other five minutes per cow. The average time for all dairies was 4.8 minutes and an average of 2.7 machines per man was used. Apparently not a great deal was gained in time by the additional machines and undoubtedly considerable milk was lost where more than two units per operator were used.

One man to two machines, or units, was the most popular combination and we assume that the milk from each cow was not weighed. This combination of two machines to one man saved two minutes per cow per man, as compared to one machine to one man, but it would not be well to assume that they produced the same amount of milk per cow. Where one man used three machines he saved about another minute per cow. The extra time required to wash the milking machines and the extra investment in milker units is not computed in the time required to do the job of milking.

An average of 3.6 minutes per cow per man was used to do the milking in herds where hand stripping was eliminated and 5.2 minutes was used in herds where cows were hand stripped. It required an average of 69 seconds to hand stripped, left the machine on their cows longer than the ones that stripped their cows with the machine. It would be logical to assume that the machines could be left on a shorter time if hand stripping were to follow, but this was not the case in the dairies studied.

The amount of milk produced per cow was not related to the time required to milk the cow, or the time the machines were on the cows. The machines were left for the shortest time on the highest producing cows. The herds where the least time per cow was spent milking were the highest producing herds.

It seems ridiculous that it should, as a rule, take longer to extract five pounds of milk from one cow's udder than it does 25 to 30 or more pounds from another, but it is a fact. It is just one more reason why the well-fed, properly milked, high-producing cow is more profitable than the low producer.

Swine Breeding Stock

The lack of any one of several factors may be costly

NOT even the most skilful breeders of swine, or the most knowing of feeders can make profits from inferior breeding stock. The most progressive breeders of purebred stock are extremely careful in the selection of young boars and gilts to be retained in their herds. An equal amount of care is necessary in commercial herds, if litters are to be large, healthy, and a large percentage of the pigs grown economically to market age.

In this country, experience has indicated the wisdom of concentrating on bacon type in Canadian hogs. This has led us largely to the Yorkshire breed for this purpose. The market requires a long, lean type of hog that will, under proper feeding, reach a market weight of about 200 pounds in not more than six months. Our breeding standards have been established on this basis and to be successful in either the breeding or the feeding of hogs, the breeder and the feeder must conform to these standards in their selection of breeding stock.

In the selection of sows for breeding purposes, the importance of the large litter is hard to over-estimate. There are good and poor strains in hogs, and it is well known to experienced hog raisers that there are strains in which the sows may characteristically produce fairly small litters, or perhaps be more or less vicious and not good mothers. Some may produce large litters but not have enough milk for them. Consequently, it is important to examine the dams and sisters of a prospective sow for breeding purposes if the information can be secured, and to pay particular attention to litter size, milking capacity,

and what might be called mothering qualities.

If more attention were paid to the amount of feed consumed by successive litters of pigs, it would be easier to reduce the cost of raising pigs to market age, because it would then become a comparatively simple matter to select sows whose litters would make economical gains and develop a line of breeding in this direction. There is a very marked difference in the cost of raising market pigs, between a requirement of 325 pounds of concentrate per 100 pounds of gain, and a requirement of 500 pounds or more for the same amount of gain. It is estimated that on the average, hogs will consume about 450 pounds of concentrates for 100 pounds of gain. This is because so many hogs use a great deal more than this amount. Selection for this valuable quality is therefore desirable.

Another point of very great importance in selecting breeding stock, is to select animals, either sows or boars, which will produce a high percentage of grade A pigs when properly fed and managed. It is true that a pig will get under the wire and receive an A grade if it barely reaches the minimum of requirements for that grade. Such animals, however, are not desirable for breeding stock. Selections should be on a higher scale of excellence and should rate well above the minimum.

A fairly reliable guide in the selection of breeding stock is the Advanced Registry of Swine. It is not enough, though, to know that a sow or boar is from an Advanced Registry sire or dam. It may be that a sow has qualified in the Ad-





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vanced Registry and is herself a good individual. But it may also be that her next litter from which it is planned to select a young boar or gilt for purchase, may be by a different sire, in which case the advanced registry connection is of no value, except as it relates to the sow herself, and her contribution to the litter from which the advanced registry qualification was secured.

There is another factor in selection of swine breeding stock which is of particular importance in a somewhat rigorous climate such as we have in western Canada. That is, the quality known as constitution, or what is involved when we speak about strength and ruggedness. Such pigs have strong bones, deep bodies and plenty of vigor. Without this characteristic, breeding stock in western Canada is likely to prove unprofitable and to run out shortly to small, weak litters, which require a great deal of attention if they are not thrifty.

The Sheep Breeding Flock

BUILDING up a good, profitable farm flock of sheep starts with the breeding flock of ewes. Culling out the least desirable older ewes and adding ewe lambs from those of good conformation that have made rapid growth as lambs, will mean steady improvement in

breeding quality.

There are four factors of special importance in the building up of a sheep breeding flock, in addition to the use of a good ram. Since revenue from the flock comes from three sources, lamb, mutton and wool, and since the ewe that has herself grown and matured properly will produce lambs with the same characteristics, it follows that first attention should be given to early maturity. Second is the conformation of the ewe, because the sale of her lambs and later of the ewe herself will be profitable in relation to the amount of meat the packer can sell from each carcass. Good, deep, strong ewes that carry the flesh on the leg right down to the hock, and having wide backs and a good spring of rib mean desirable lamb and mutton carcasses.

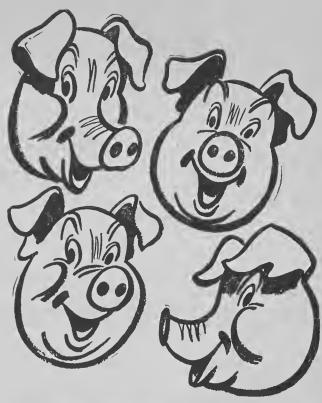
Next comes the weight and quality of the fleece. What is desired is a heavy, dense fleece for the breed. Parting the wool at several places on the animal will show whether the fibres are long and uniform in thickness.

Finally, uniformity in a breeding flock is highly desirable. This means not only uniformity as to maturity, conformation and wool, but also as to freedom from defects. Old, broken-down ewes with defective udders and mouths, or those that have poor breeding performance up-to-date, have no place in the flock for another year. A high percentage lamb crop cannot be secured.

Meet the Cow

THE cow is a mobile, animated machine housed in unprocessed leather. On one end it is equipped with a mower, grinder, and other standard equipment including bumpers, headlights, wing flaps and foghorn. At the other end there is a milk dispenser, a fertilizer spreader and an insect repeller. Centrally located is a conversion plant consisting of a combination storage and fermentation vat, three converters in series, and an intricate arrangement of conveyor tubes. Special equipment includes a device for self reproduction at yearly intervals and a central pumping system. The machine is mysterious and secret, but unpatented, and is available in various colors, sizes and qualities, ranging from one to 20 tons of milk production yearly, at prices ranging from fifty dollars up.

-With apologies to the N.Z. Dairy Exporter.



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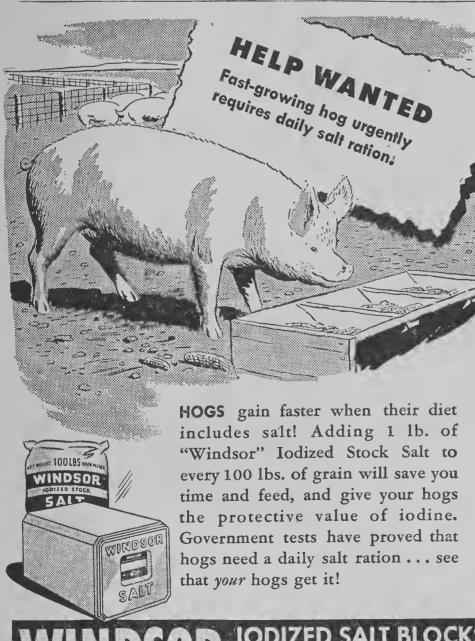
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BARLEY-OATS mixtures for hog feedings are better when coarsely ground, according to the Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon. Where very young pigs are fed it is also necessary to sift the chop to remove at least part of the harmful hulls which the digestive systems of young pigs cannot accommodate. Soaking is of doubtful value.

Since the young pigs should be kept growing as fast as possible, they need additional animal protein for this purpose. Skim milk, buttermilk, meat meal or commercial supplements are all good and perform a useful function in avoiding unthriftiness, which is the cause of so much slow and costly gain.

Another point to remember is that barley and oats do not supply enough calcium for young pigs. Milk, meat meal and tankage supply calcium as well as essential proteins. If young pigs are to be fed inside where they cannot secure adequate sunshine, a dessert spoonful of cod liver oil or pilchardene oil daily will provide protective vitamins and compensate for the lack of direct sunshine. This feeding of oil can be discontinued when pigs reach a weight of about 100 pounds.

About Treating for Bloat

No doubt a large number of your readers will have taken keen interest in your article on page 21 of the June issue, dissertating on the bloating of sheep and cattle. Based on my own experience, I am inclined to think that your article falls considerably short of being as reliable or truly helpful as might be expected. Farmers should not be encouraged to rely too much on amateur treatment for this affliction.

According to the veterinarian practicing in this territory, a bolus of coarse material, when swallowed by a ruminant, has a good chance of landing in the rumen. Finely chewed material and liquids do not open the entrance to the rumen, and pass on to the other stomachs. All those fine medicines you mention "might be satisfactory" (nearly your own words) and arrest fermentation, neutralize gas, and stimulate the rumen if one could get the dose where it is needed, but why be optimistic if most of it is going on to the well-behaved stomachs when swallowed?

When called for a bloat case, our vet. puts a hose down the animal's gullet into the paunch, and pours the medicine right into the trouble, with plenty of water to see that the medicine gets around. The tube can be partly withdrawn for part of the dose so that some will pass on to hurry things up in the other stomachs and bowels. All medicine is put exactly where it is needed. None is poured into the animal's lungs and there is no subsequent pneumonia. The only disadvantage is that we have to pay the vet.

Of course, all this applies only if there is a vet. available, and there is time for him to arrive before the animal suffocates.

At the risk of being considered hypercritical, I would also like to comment on your qualified advocacy of the use of the trocar. I have to admire the restrained phraseology used in your article. One merely "provides an outlet for the escape of gas." It isn't the author's fault if the silly old gas has got itself all mixed up with foam and chawed grass and so has difficulty in using the provided outlet.

To be reasonably satisfactory, we should have specially designed cows. First, they should have paunches with a series of baffle plates and a dome like a locomotive boiler, where the trocar could be jabbed into nice clean, dry gas, high above the water, foam and hay. Second, they should have paunches as tough as a hide and hides as tender and stretchy as a paunch, so as to ensure that the gas will escape through the cannula, not around it, and blow the

hide up. Third, they should be immune to infection and abcesses.

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From all of which you may deduce that when I have a serious case of the bloat, I will phone the vet., and until he gets here the trocar will stay in my pocket, unless the animal shows it is near collapse.-Frank Dowson, Broadview, Saskatchewan.

(We agree about amateurs. Nevertheless, to quote again from the article, 'If one has a trocar and cannula and no experienced person can be obtained, the attempt is justified."—Editors.)

D.D.T. Has Lasting Effect

NTIL scientists discovered DDT, no method or combination of methods for controlling flies proved adequate. Today it would be possible over large areas to almost eliminate the house fly.

It was research workers in Switzerland who first discovered that the new insecticide DDT would not only bring about the death of flies at the time of application or very shortly after, but that the insecticide also possesses a lasting effect. The discovery that one treatment of surfaces where flies are likely to congregate would continue to destroy flies lighting on these surfaces even after three to six months, advanced the possibility of house fly control immeasurably. To thoroughly treat dairy barns and farm buildings, including kitchens and places where flies congregate, with a five per cent DDT solution in oils or water and secure highly effective control is infinitely more satisfactory than the use of household sprays, poisons, wire screens, electricity, traps, fly paper, or the common swatter.

Poor Quality Hay Means More Feed IVESTOCK feeders who desire to estimate the quality and quantity of feeds that will be available for winter feeding, know from experience that there is a great deal of difference in the quantity of different feeds necessary to produce 100 pounds of gain. Good, well-cured brome-alfalfa hay will produce a stated amount of gain on considerably less feed than if poorquality hay is used, or if the promealfalfa has been left too long before

It is pretty generally known that as legumes and grasses grow in the spring and reach maturity, the percentage of protein decreases and that if hay is left until too late before cutting, the hay will be of poorer quality, not only because of a decrease in protein content, but also because of a smaller proportion of leaves safely brought to the stack

In one United States experiment, the feeding of alfalfa hay cut in different stages showed that alfalfa cut in the seed stage required more than twice as much feed for 100 pounds of gain than if cut in the bud stage, the figures being 3,910 pounds of hay cut in the seed stage and 1,628 pounds when cut in the bud stage. If cut when 10 per cent in bloom, 2,068 pounds of alfalfa hay were required for 100 pounds of gain. When left until full bloom, the hay requirement was 2,163 pounds.

Test of Beef Sires

IN a performance test of beef cattle conducted by the Montana State College, the progeny of 11 purebred Hereford bulls were tested for efficiency in beef production. Records were also kept of digestive disorders, including off-feed, scouring and bloating among the progeny of each sire. The progeny of one sire lost 8.68 per cent of steer days from bloat, while the progeny of another sire lost only .05 per cent, which indicates that beef animals may inherit ability to handle grain feed.

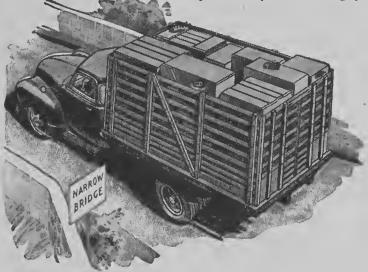
Incidentally, the herd sire whose progeny suffered most from bloat, was poor also in weaning weights and gains in the feed lot.

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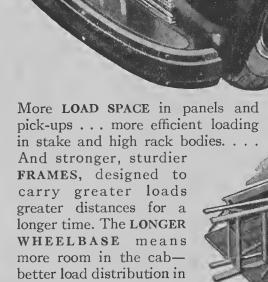
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the carrier.

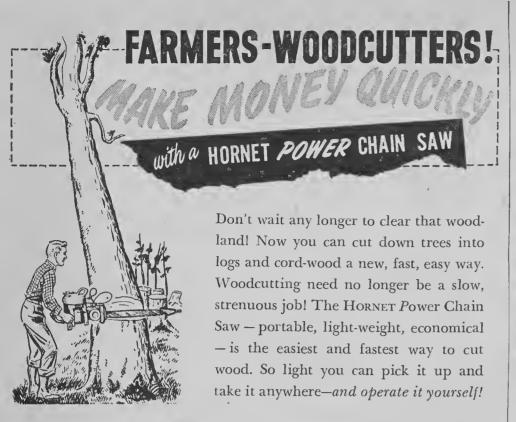


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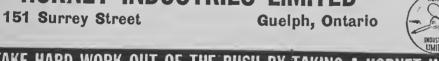
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[Guide photo.

This year promises to be a good corn year if harvest weather is not unfavorable.

Sugar Beet Growing in Manitoba

Manitoba's seven-year-old beet industry persists despite weather hazards

By J. T. EWING

ANITOBA'S beet sugar refinery at Winnipeg hopes to expand production this year to take care of 120,000 tons of beets. That will be 20,000 tons more than were processed in 1946. Each year the plant approaches a little nearer its maximum capacity of 150,000 tons.

Since the plant began operating in the fall of 1940, there have been 12,000 to 13,000 acres of beets harvested each year, from a planted acreage of 15,000 acres. Excessively weedy land, and various weather hazards have always reduced the harvested acreage. The seven-year average yield was eight and a half tons per acre. Some growers get 10 tons or more, others much less than the average.

Sugar content of the beets varies from 16 to 17 per cent, which is about the same as Ontario. On the irrigated lands of Alberta, the sugar content is a little higher, between 17 and 18 per cent.

Production of sugar has averaged 25 million pounds each year. No brown sugar is made, but other by-products include 5,000 tons of molasses and 6,000 tons of beet pulp each year. The molasses is all used commercially, as raw material for yeast factories and for industrial alcohol distilleries. The beet pulp is highly valued as feed for dairy cattle and it is all shipped to the United States.

Mechanization has greatly reduced labor costs of beet production. Use of segmented seed has speeded up thinning operations. Instead of planting the whole "seed," each one of which contains four complete seeds, a segment containing a single germ is dropped each time. Then they are cross-blocked, permitting mechanical cultivation two ways. As a result, hoeing and thinning are greatly simplified. It was formerly customary, when thinning, to use a short-handled hoe, proceeding along the row on the knees. It is now possible to stand almost erect, using a long-handled hoe, and doing the job in a fraction of the time formerly required. A mechanical thinner, which is coming into extensive use in the United States, is being tried here with good results.

Topping is now the operation requiring the greatest amount of hand labor. A mechanical digger leaves the beets on top of the ground, and an elevating loader rapidly fills a truck with them after they are topped. Then they are quickly whisked away to the railway siding where they are mech-

anically loaded on railway cars for shipment to the plant at Winnipeg. A new harvesting machine has been devised which digs the beets, tops them, and elevates them into the truck. Some mechanical deficiencies are yet to be ironed out, but already it cuts down labor costs tremendously.

The contracted acreage extends as far west as Portage la Prairie, as far south as Emerson and Winkler, as far east as Beausejour, and as far north as Teulon, in the inter-lake country. Freight is paid on all shipments, but beets are not accepted from a greater distance than 70 miles.

Sugar beets require about 20 inches of moisture for economic production. Ideal weather conditions include plenty of reserve moisture from the previous fall, to promote germination and early growth. They are normally thinned about a month after planting. After thinning they need intermittent rains during July and August to keep them growing rapidly. There should be no more rain after September 15, when digging begins. If the weather is favorable they all should be harvested by early October, after which more rains are desirable to provide reserve moisture for the following year. Because of this heavy moisture demand, some authorities see continued sugar beet production in Manitoba only where irrigation can be provided.

Growing beets make heavy demands on soil nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. Most growers apply 50 to 80 pounds of 10-48 ammonium phosphate along with the seed. Because of their heavy demands on soil fertility, sugar beets are definitely a rotation crop. The most favored rotation is summerfallow, beets, and wheat, barley or oats as a nurse crop to alfalfa The following summer the alfalfa is plowed down as green manure and the land summerfallowed the remainder of the year.

Because of the newness of the territory to sugar beet production, Manitoba is rather free of serious beet diseases. Webworms and red-backed cutworms have done some damage in certain seasons, in some cases making reseeding necessary. Wireworm damage has been negligible.

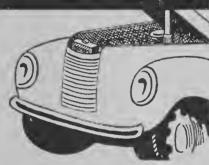
The young plants are seldom damaged by spring frosts. Once growing, they are quite resistant. Even hail is not a serious potential risk, for leaves beaten down by the hail stones soon grow



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Farm Science Pays Well

THERE are still many people on farms who do not pay much attention to what science can do to help them. But farm science is helping them in spite of themselves. Science could help them a great deal more if they were as inquisitive and as interested as some of their neighbors, in trying to find out what the universities, experimental farms and departments of agriculture can do to help improve crop and livestock production and profits.

New varieties of grain such as Thatcher, Redman, Rescue and Saunders wheat did not come about by chance. The trash cover to prevent wind erosion is not something which farmers always knew about. DDT and 2, 4-D were not discovered on someone's farm, nor were the new machines for spraying fields for weeds, and using only about five gallons of water per acre, developed on a grain farm. Working in a thousand ways with insect pests and diseases, farm machinery and equipment, soils and plants of all kinds, scientists are steadily making it possible for farmers to produce more products with less work.

An outstanding illustration is offered by the introduction of hybrid corn, which, if similar calculations could be made for other contributions made by science to the farm, would clarify the picture for many of those who are still unable to see how science can benefit them very much. During the last 10 years, the use of hybrid seed for the corn crop of Canada and the United States has become very widespread. It was first introduced in the United States in the early 30's and it is expected that in 1948, perhaps three out of every four acres planted to corn will be sown with hybrid seed.

For the last five years the United States corn crop has averaged more than three billion bushels per year, which is a half a billion bushels more than was produced for the 10-year period ending 1932. In 1946, for example, about 3½ billion bushels of corn were harvested, which was calculated to be about 750 million bushels more than would be produced under the conditions of the 1920's.

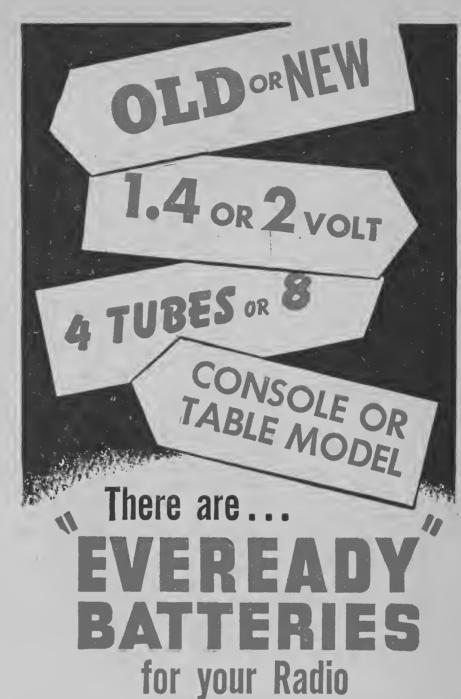
U.S. farmers today are producing 20 per cent more corn from 10 per cent fewer acres than they did 20 or 30 years ago, which means that the yield per acre has been increased by a full third.

It is estimated that the U.S. corn crop last year was 400 million bushels more than it would have been had open-pollinated varieties been used on all the corn acreage. The weather is calculated to have increased the crop about 270 million bushels over the average. Another 100 million bushels is believed due to the fact that U.S. corn raisers are using two or three times more fertilizer than before the war. Added to these factors, all traceable to science, is the greater use of mechanical power and the ability to get work done on time, plus the greater attention that has been given to soil building and conservation.

Believes in Early Swathing

IN 1911 a neighbor of mine cut a swath along his fence line when the crop was just in the milk stage, in order to get his binders to his early seeded crop. He left the bundles lay, as he considered them spoiled by the early cutting.

Two weeks later, he planned to start cutting this field one morning, but the night before we got a hard frost. When the crop was threshed and shipped it graded No. 1 Feed, while the grain in the bundles lying on the ground from that first swath were well filled and a nice dark color, and in my opinion would have graded No. 1 Northern, though we did not have it graded by government grades.



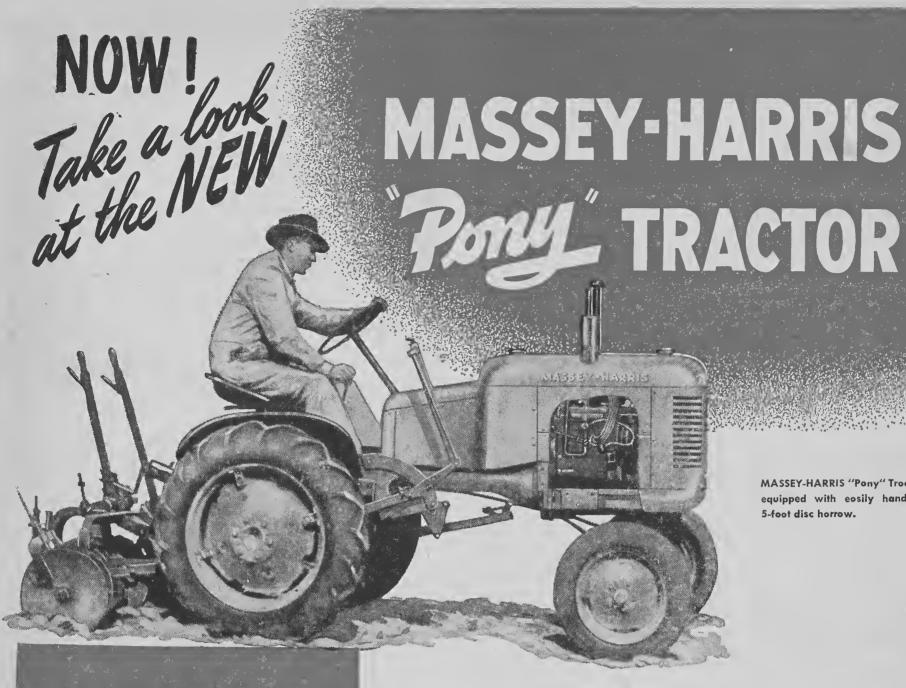
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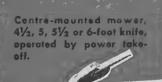


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The Massey-Harris "Pony" is a regular he-man tractor with enough power to operate a 6-foot mower or pull a 14-inch-bottom plow. It has big, ground-gripping rear tires and enough weight to give it plenty of traction. Yet on light jobs it rolls along with surprisingly low fuel consumption. The secret lies in its engineering . . . in the design of its engine and the way its power is utilized by the carefullyplanned transmission.

With a Massey-Harris "Pony", you can cultivate row crops at 7 miles an hour, turn a 12 or 14-inch furrow at speeds up to 3.59 miles an hour, or do heavy lugging at 2.74 miles an hour. Both front and rear wheels are adjustable for row-crop or general work. With self starter and battery ignition it handles like an automobile. There is a full range of quick-mounted tools, specially designed for maximum efficiency. Can be equipped with belt pulley and power take-off if desired.

Ask your local Massey-Harris dealer for full particulars about the "Pony". We believe you, too, will vote it "grand champion of the small tractor class".

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That started me to cutting my crop the next season as soon as the straw started to dry above the first joint in the low spots in the fields, regardless of how green the straw and heads were above that. I was convinced that the heads could not get any more nourishment from the roots of the plants, and while all my neighbors tried to convince me that I was ruining my crop, all I got cut before the first frost graded No. 2 Northern, by the local elevator agent's grading.

I followed this plan every year from that time on, as long as I continued to farm and when we had enough growth of straw to make swathing safe. I learned by hanging a sheet of tin to the front of the frame of the swather, for the swath to drop on, that the tin riding on the stubble would lean the stubble over with each straw resting on the one next to it. As the sheet of tin slipped from under the swath, the swath was held up clear of the ground even where the grain was quite a thin stand. The air could then circulate under the swath and avoid any chances of sprouting. The greener it was cut the better it settled together and avoided any chance of loss by scattering. Also the longer the stubble the more protection it gave the swath.

When rains came the water all drained through into the ground and the air circulating under it prevented any chance of sprouting, even when caught by the winter snows. The winds would blow the snow off the swaths into the adjoining stubble as fast as it fell. No mice will build their nests where the cold air can circulate under them. The few heads lying on top of the swaths were all that were bleached, so I never lost more than one grade by the winter exposure. My earliest swathing always gave me No. 1 Northern grade, except one season when I got No. 1 Hard for one carload from one field. Neighbors all were sure I was ruining this field by cutting it while the low spots were perfectly green, and the high spots in the fields were just starting to turn color.

Now that the saw-fiy has become such a menace, early swathing is the only way to beat them. They can do all the boring they like after the crop is in the swath, since the heads are all safe ready for the pick-up to gather.

Short crops should not be swathed. The pick-up must have enough straw with the heads to enable the pick-up to lift the heads up to the platform, where they can be carried into the separator.—W. D. Trego, Calgary.

The Reason for Soil Conservation

We must husband our good soil because there is not too much of it

In recent years, a growing number of people who understand the importance of the soil and the reason why it should not be wasted or misused, have been urging the necessity for soil conservation. This means, in very simple language, better care of the soil, so as to preserve it from blowing or washing away, and losing its strength or fertility through careless cropping.

It is perhaps not generally understood as well as it should be, how little soil we really have on which it is practical to grow food. Canada, as everyone knows, stretches for thousands of miles between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, but if we examine a map of Canada, we soon realize that our farm land, if it were all evened out into a straight belt just north of the International Boundary, would be a pretty narrow strip. The fact is that if we put all of the occupied farm land in Canada inside this narrow belt, it would only reach for 65 miles north of the International Boundary, while if we considered only improved farm lands, the narrow strip would only be 35 miles wide.

Canada, nevertheless, ranks as an important agricultural country in international trade. This is because our population is only about 12 million; and if all of the people in Canada were to

move on to our present occupied farm land, there would only be 45 people per square mile. In some European countries, such as the United Kingdom and Belgium, the population is at least 12 times this number per square mile, and in countries like China and India, even denser still. So, in spite of the fact that only about seven per cent of the area of Canada consists of occupied farms, and only about four per cent is improved farm land, we are still able to produce much more food than we need for ourselves.

The United States is in much the same fix as we are in Canada. With about 1,905 million acres of land, only about 350 million acres are planted to crops each year. Another 50 million acres are idle or fallow crop land, out of a total of 1,100 million acres in farms. Included in the farm land are about 700 million acres of grass land used for pasture and grazing, and in addition, about 350 million acres of forest lands are used for the same purposes.

Thus, the actual proportion of cultivated crop lands in Canada and the United States is very small, and it is this area which must bear the burden of supplying the greater part of the food needed for ourselves and for the needy people of other countries.



[Guide photo.

Good swaths lie on the stubble well off the ground so that the air circulates and dries underneath as well as on top.





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Conducted by Prof. W. J. RAE, University of Saskatchewan



Thanksgiving Turkeys. Most Canadian turkeys are produced in the West.

Know Your Layers

Y this time of year, all the pullets should be housed in their winter quarters whether they are in production or not. There is no advantage in leaving them on range, since the nutritive value of any green feed is very poor at this time of year. When you do move the pullets in, spend a little time with them each day so that you have the opportunity to become acquainted. Science has not yet produced a mechanical bird. They are sensitive creatures and respond to the care they receive.

For the first few evenings, drop into the pen just about dusk. At that time, the pullets should be preparing to roost. If you find some of them settling down for the night in a corner of the pen, lift them up onto the roost so that they will become accustomed to roosting. You will find that within a few days, all the pullets will roost rather than sit on the floor.

As the season progresses, you will probably notice that all the birds do not go to roost at the same time. Those which roost early are usually the poorer individuals in the flock. The better ones are utilizing all the available time for eating since good production can only be maintained if a high level of mash consumption is maintained. When these better birds are ready to roost, you may notice that the front roost is full whereas those at the back are only partially filled. This makes it difficult for some of the birds to get up on the roosts. To overcome this difficulty, slope the roosts slightly so that the front roost is the lowest. The ones which roost early will take the back roost because they are higher and will then leave room for the later birds.

Fall and Winter Production

HERE is no argument that fall and winter egg production is necessary if the poultryman is to realize a good return upon his investment. The pullets will go out of production late next summer or early fall. Thus, if a bird is in production 11 to 12 months, a greater return will be derived from her than if she were laying over a period of only eight or nine months. The feed cost will not be much lower for the latter bird and the cost to produce a dozen eggs will actually be much higher.

To be profitable, a pullet must be well matured before coming into production. For the lighter breeds such as White Leghorns, five to five and a half months is early enough to commence laying and in the case of the heavier breeds, six to six and a half months. Once the pullets are in the laying house, they should have before them at all times a well-balanced laying mash. This should be supplemented with plenty of fresh, clean water, oyster shell, or some other calcium-bearing grit and the proper amount of whole grains. The usual recommendation for whole grain is 12 to 14 pounds per day per 100 birds. For the first month or six weeks you could feed about 14 pounds per day per 100 birds. This will not interfere with production and at the same time will help to increase body weight. Once the pullets reach a high level of production (60 to 65 per cent or over) it is hard to increase their body weight; and if they are light in weight at that time, production usually drops.

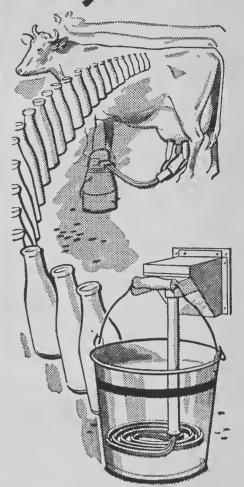
Do Not Market Cockerels Too Early

EXPERIENCE has shown that no matter what the condition of the market may be, there is always a good demand for well matured and properly finished cockerels. There has been a great tendency in the past to assume that the rapid growing and fast feathering cockerels are ready for market much earlier than the slower growing birds. The result has been poor birds and low returns. Irrespective of rate of growth the cockerels are not ready to fatten until they are mature. The best way to tell when they have reached that stage is to observe their feather growth. Catch a few of the birds individually (not necessarily the largest) and hold them in your hand with their heads nearest your body. Run your fingers through the back feathers from tail to head. If you find a large number of short pin feathers, do not attempt to market these cockerels for a while. When the pin feathers are about a half to two-thirds grown place the birds in crates or pens for finishing. Since all birds do not mature at the same, rate, it will be necessary to finish them in groups according to their condition. The number of groups will depend to some extent on the care and management they received during the

Whether you crate or pen fatten your cockerels should depend on the size of your flock and facilities available. Crate fattening is the best method to use for finishing, but quite good results can be obtained by pen fattening.

past summer.

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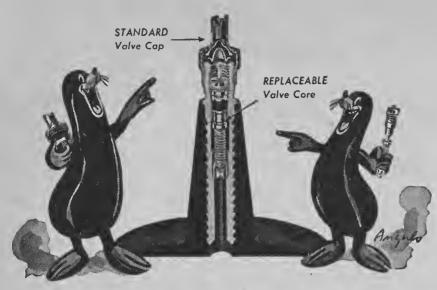
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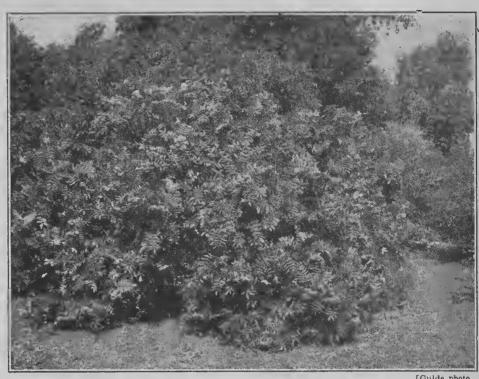
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An Hour or Two at Sutherland

The Station has many things of interest for the visitor

VISIT to the Dominion Forest A Nursery Station at Sutherland, Saskatchewan, just outside of Saskatoon, is always an interesting experience for me. Mr. W. L. Kerr, the superintendent, who was formerly tree fruit specialist at Morden, is a horticulturist because he was born to be one. His experience is wide, including the more favorable horticultural climate of the eastern States, and his interests range over the whole field of fruits and ornamentals and trees useful to the

Since assuming the superintendency at Sutherland a few years ago, he is gradually changing and modernizing the station, which for 30 years prior to his incumbency, had performed such an extended and useful service in this field. Most noticeable in the summer months, though perhaps least important economically, the wide and spacious station grounds are the mecca for thousands of folks from Saskatoon and the surrounding country on an average Sunday or a suggestion of a holiday. The long driveways are closely packed with cars, and groups of picknickers are to be found in every nook and corner of the place. A lover of children and animals, Mr. Kerr has established a miniature zoo at the station, and beginning with a porcupine or two, the original small enclosure has now been extended to include space for a fawn and some rabbits, the latter intended originally for experimental work with repellants as protection for fruit trees.

I had only a short time to spend at Sutherland in late July this year, but during a brief tour of the station I noticed with much interest the Sutherland Pyramidal Caragana, which Mr. Kerr pointed out to me two or three years ago, then growing in one of the tall caragana hedges lining the 20-acre tree seedling plots. This had been propagated and I could see one or two of the tall handsome shrubs growing as ornamentals on the station grounds. There was also the handsome Skinner Silverleaf willow, which Frank Skinner found growing in British Columbia; and likewise the Jumping Pound pincherry, growing perhaps three feet in diameter and to a height of five feet, which with its springtime profusion of white bloom forming a small mountain of beauty, is a tribute to the late Augustus Griffin, who found the plant in the Jumping Pound country.

Likewise, I was much attracted by the dwarf, bluish juniperus horizontalis which, with the very prostrate form of the native ground cedar (also found by Frank Skinner), were hugging the edge of one of the shrubbery beds near the main house.

I was too late to see the cross-bred prunus triloba pedunculata, the light pink bloom of which Mr. Kerr described as better than prunus triloba, the profuse blooming and highly decorative shrub which is so much an ornament in many gardens and towns and cities.

Also interesting was a forthcoming Stewart selection among the rosybloom crabs. Though not yet ready for distribution, Mr. Kerr believed it would prove to be the best yet among this group of handsome, ornamental crabs. Speaking of best things, Mr. Kerr described the Siberian willow as "the best willow there is," and also professed high admiration for the group of lilies known as the "Stenographer" lilies. These lilies, incidentally, are the product of Miss Isabella Preston, who for long years did such excellent plant breeding work at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. This group of lilies is so-called, incidentally, because they were named after the stenographers at the C.E.F. One of the best of them is called Lillian Cummings.

IN his garden, which is enclosed from the public, Mr. Kerr is fond of trying all sorts of little experiments. Last year, I think it was, he was growing cucumbers or melons, or both, in small boxes perhaps two feet square in the open. This year I noticed a variation of the barrel system of growing strawberries. Mr. Kerr has built wooden frames of eight or 10-inch lumber, each one a foot shorter and narrower than the next largest. These frames, filled with earth and set one on top of the other, left six-inch bands of soil running around all four sides and arranged in terraces. Planted to strawberries, it illustrated the possibility of growing them ornamentally even in the centre of a lawn, and producing more than would be possible on a flat surface of ground.

Other strawberries were growing in rows in the normal way, and Mr. Kerr pointed to some plants of Pixie, a fruit of splendid quality with a marked sugary flavor. Elgin, which he described as the largest fruit of commercial quality, was a dark red in color. Some Sparta, a variety introduced only a few years ago by A. J. Porter in his Honeywood Nursery at Parkside, SasTHE COUNTRY GUIDE

katchewan, was also bearing plenty of large, firm-fleshed, bright-colored fruit. This variety seems to be a good runner.

The 1947 season has been a poor one for the production of tree seedlings. Maple and ash seedlings were cut down by the spring frosts, and Mr. Kerr informed me that this has been the worst year for growing seedlings in his experience. Should there be a very heavy demand next spring for seedlings for shelterbelts, it may be hard to keep pace with it. A good stand of caragana seedlings may run 150,000 to the acre. Mr. Kerr described as "a whale of a stand" 150,000 elm per acre. Unfortunately, the average stand this year will be far, far short of these figures.

In order to improve the seedlings through better germination of seed, some experiments were tried this year in the treatment of seed. Unfortunately, none of the treatments tried seemed to help very much. Some of them ruined the seed completely, and others injured it.

Another interesting observation at Sutherland was the growing of a number of hybrids, representing different selections of poplar. Some of these selections have proven to be very hardy, while others kill out readily. Mr. Kerr is of the opinion that in a few years time the stations at Sutherland and Indian Head will be sending out poplars which will be quite different from the Russian and Northwestern poplars now being grown. One selection called Wheeler No. 4, from the nursery of Seager Wheeler, at Rosthern, is a very hardy male poplar and quite promising. Incidentally, the Siberian willow previously mentioned, is the Silverleaf propagated from one growing on the Seager Wheeler place, which so far, according to Mr. Kerr, has shown no sign of winter injury or injury from spring and fall frosts.-H.S.F.

List of Morden Introductions

BY the end of this year, at least 50 introductions of fruit, vegetables. ornamentals and flowers will have originated from the Dominion Experimental Station at Morden. The following is a list of them, with the year in which they were introduced; and enthusiastic gardeners of western Canada may like to know that descriptions of all of them may be had on request to the station. Descriptions are also available of a number of selections still grown under re-test number and not yet known. The first introductions on the list are dated 1929, in which year the Mantet, Mortoff and Manton apples, the Manmoor cherry, Redman (European red) Elder and Stockton pin cherry were named. Since that time the list has developed as follows:

1930-Manan, Manred, Moris and Spangelo apples; Mordel plum; Mordena cherry-plum. 1931 - Godfrey. Manitoba, Manitoba Spy, Stevenson and Watts apples; Mando sand cherry. 1934—Mina plum. 1935—Morden Russet and Breakey apples; Mansan cherryplum; Royalty lilac; Morden Maid gladiolus. 1936—Toba crabapple; Ostem and Redant apples; Coral, Nocturne and Redwine lilacs. 1937—Scout Apricot; Coronation sour cherry; Mount Apple; Drilea cherry (Nanking); Swanee lilac; Morden Pink lythrum. 1939—Bounty plum; Morden elm. 1942—Dura cherry-plum. 1943 — Norther plum. 1944 — Morden spruce (Colorado); Tidy Caragana. 1946—Almey (Rosybloom) crabapples; Manor cherry-plum; Prairie Sailor and Prairie Wren roses; Morden (yellow) tomato. 1947—Sugar Prince (hybrid) sweet corn.

Two additional selections are due for naming in 1947, both of them ornamentals. The first is a hybrid flowering almond, a cross between Prunus pedunculata and Prunus triloba. It is about four days earlier at Morden than the double flowering plum, Prunus tri-

loba, and carries its bloom for as much as two weeks, after which it bears a crop of nuts carrying a red skin. The bush is described as spreading, shapely and graceful, and has proven very hardy both as to leaf and flower buds.

The second introduction will be a long-lasting, fragrant double-white $moc \kappa$ orange.

Garden Plants Can Become Weeds By Archibald C. Budd

WHEN man tampers with Nature the results are often disastrous. Two outstanding examples are the introduction of the British rabbit and the American prickly pear cactus into Australia, where they have become serious

In our Canadian west we introduce many foreign plants into our gardens as ornamentals and food plants. Some of these plants may find their new location so favorable that they will spread out and become serious weeds. Indeed several garden sorts are already well on the way to becoming a nuisance in this manner.

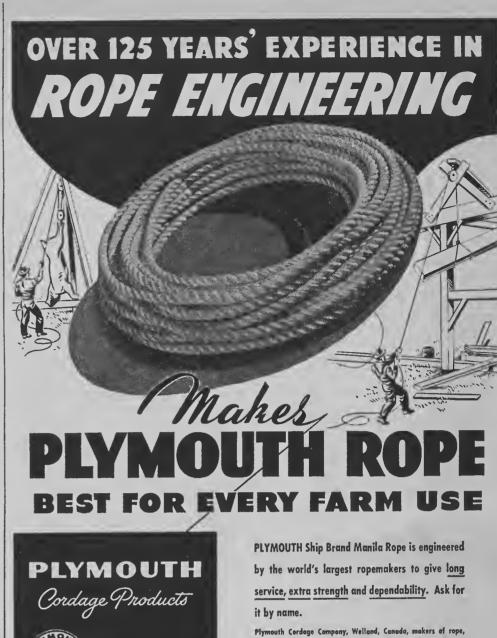
One of the most widespread is the yellow goat's beard. This plant has long grass-like leaves, white, milky sap and pale, yellow flowers rather like dandelions, which later become fluffy seedheads almost the size of a tennis ball. It was first introduced as a garden plant in Colorado and, by means of its wind-borne seeds, spread throughout the western states into Canada and is now spreading eastward across the prairies. In 1928 it was represented by an odd plant here and there in the fields, but now most towns are overrun with goat's beard and it occupies a major place as a weed of roadsides and shelterbelts. Eradication by cultivation before seed formation is effective in destroying the current crop of goat's beard, but since it is a biennial, which often acts as an annual, a watchful eye must be kept for seedlings growing from seed already in the soil.

The salsify, or vegetable-oyster, an edible garden plant closely related to the goat's beard, but with a purple flower, has become a rather bad weed in British Columbia.

A^N annual often grown in gardens as a border plant is the summer cypress or Mexican fire bush. This is a very shapely, pale green plant which later turns a rich, red color and bears thousands of small seeds to each plant. It belongs to the goosefoot family, which contains such bad weeds as lamb's quarters and Russian thistle and is a family remarkable for its prodigality in seed production and rapidity of spread. The summer cypress is now found along roadsides and in vacant lots in most western towns; and it is quite possible that it may eventually spread to the fields and countryside where it might become as pernicious as Russian pigweed or lamb's quarters.

Another annual of the same family, which has escaped from gardens and become a widespread town weed is the garden atriplex or Hungarian spinach. This is a broad-leaved, rank-growing annual with large seed bracts, which somewhat resemble the seed pods of stinkweed. It is rather peculiar in that it yields two kinds of seed on the same plant, one sort being large and light brown and the other small and black. The large seeds will germinate in four or five days, but the small black ones have a long dormant period and may germinate several months or a year later. If the first crop of seedlings is destroyed, later seeds will produce another set to replace them.

A PLANT of the mustard family which seems to be spreading around towns and which may eventually develop weedy propensities is the dame's



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Each "Boo-Jee" contains 10,000 International Units of crystalline penIcillin. Supplied in tubes of 6. rocket or dame's violet. This plant has pretty violet blossoms, four-petalled, and is very showy. It grows to a height of three or four feet and looks at first glance something like fireweed and is an admirable plant for background planting. Like most of the mustards, however, its seed pods split open and release numerous seeds and it will soon spread over the garden and into adjoining wasteland.

Everybody likes to see gardens with a good showing of flowers, but it is advisable to make sure they do not get into places where they can become weedy. This is true, especially of members of the goosefoot or mustard families and those which reproduce by windborne seeds.

IN farm gardens two native plants, wild tomato and skeleton weed, become very annoying weeds. The wild tomato is an annual of the tomato and potato family, with small white blossoms and a small green fruit. A difference of opinion exists regarding the poisonous nature of this fruit, some folk making it into jam which they eat with no ill effect, while others are made very ill by eating it. In addition to being an obnoxious weed, wild tomato is also an important food plant of the destructive potato bug. If hoed out of the garden and turned upside down, the plants often send out adventitious rootlets from the stems and leaf veins and continue to grow and produce seed, making eradication rather difficult.

The skeleton weed is a true zerophytic or drought-tolerant plant, its leaves being reduced to mere scales and its general appearance resembling the skeleton of a plant. Its tough, wiry roots penetrate several feet into the soil, enabling it to reach moisture beyond the depth available to most other plants. The seed will rarely germinate, propagation being almost entirely by roots. Like all other members of the chicory family, it has a sticky sap, very annoying to the gardener who has to pull out many of these persistent perennial plants. Its eradication from a garden entails continued pulling up of plants to weaken the root system,

(Note: Mr. Budd is an authority on weeds at the Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask.)

Q. (Wapella, Sask.): My Beta grapes killed back last winter although covered with leaves and straw. What treatment is advised?

A. Beta often winters successfully in southern Manitoba without mulching. To assure comfortable wintering, prune to 2 to 5 canes in late October. Lay the canes on the ground and cover over with 8 to 12 inches of dry soil. Uncover and tie to wires again in early May



This young miss, a daughter of N.P. Lew'chuk, Canora, Sask., is proud of her dish of fine plums.

The Language of Bees

Scientist collects evidence to show that the honey bee follows his nose

R. KARL VON FRISCH of Graz, Austria, is better known to authorities on the social insects than he is to the general public. If he is famous in a small European entomological circle it is because of the studies that he has made of what he calls the "language" of bees. Bees communicate by odors, according to von Frisch. They also communicate by dancing in their hives.

If all this arouses skepticism von Frisch asks you to place some little cups of honey near a beehive. The cups will often be ignored for hours, even for days. By chance a bee discovers a cup, then collects honey and returns to the hive. Soon other bees appear in increasing numbers. They come from the same hive as the discoverer. If there are several honey cups of which only one was discovered, newcomers will soon fly to all the cups simultaneously. Evidently the bees are not following the first discoverer; they are discovering on their own account.

Some Curious Behavior

Von Frisch has watched bees in glass hives and noted some curious behavior. A bee that has returned to the hive enters a particular section of comb, gives some of its collected honey to a neighbor and then begins a sort of circular maypole dance, alternating right and left. More bees join the dancer, so that there is soon a whole train of imitators. The same performance may be observed in other cells of the honeycomb whenever a bee returns from honey-gathering and gives up part of its load. "The dance means that honey is to be found near the hive," explains von Frisch. Only bees in the train of the first dancer now fly out in all directions. When they have found food they, too, dance on the return, whereupon their followers fly off for food. Soon the whole hive is a danceBees drink ordinarily not from glass cups but from flowers. So von Frisch changes the experiment. Near the hive he sets up some phlox and fills the flowers with sugar water. Marked bees collect the sugar water, return to the hive and dance. Other bees that alight on the phlox are caught so that they may not disturb the experiment. Von Frisch then sets up in another place a bowl of phlox and a bowl of cyclamen, but adds no sugar water to the flowers.

Bees Around the Phlox

Soon new bees turn up and fly around the phlox in increasing numbers. They alight on the flowers and examine them thoroughly, though the natural nectar is so deep that it is inaccessible to them. No attention is paid to the cyclamen. But reverse the experiment, so that sugar water is put in the cyclamen flowers, and the phlox will be ignored.

There is no doubt in von Frisch's mind that it is the scent of a flower and not its nectar, that attracts bees. The scent clings to them so that other bees in the hive can smell it. The language of the bees is therefore a language of odors. Von Frisch proves the point by dispensing with the flowers altogether and using little cups of essential oil or synthetic perfumes. He then feeds marked bees from a glass cup which contains a little peppermint. There follows the usual dance and the usual foray for food by informed bees. And the informed bees fly to any object that may bear only a trace of peppermint and not to flowers

Von Frisch holds that the "language" of bees can be practically applied. He induces bees to visit certain flowers only. The pollination and therefore the crop of red clover and other plants has been increased in this way by about 40 per cent. So with the production of honey.—W.K. In The N.Y. Times.

Problems of Greek Agriculture

FAO. makes a survey and plans

FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, is organized to help extend assistance in food and agriculture between nations. During the last year or more, some comparatively backward agricultural countries have requested FAO to send them "missions" of technical people to advise them how agricultural efficiency in these countries can be improved. Such a mission, consisting of a number of specialists in different fields, was requested by Greece, and has already reported.

Greece is a small mountainous country of about 50,000 square miles. Only about one-quarter of the land can be cultivated. The mountainous nature of the country has led to the development of many rivers, all of which are short and swift. This means that river control is essential for an efficient agriculture and that such control should concern itself with floods, deposits of silt, and erosion.

Many of the drainage and irrigation projects in Greece have been poorly maintained, and the rehabilitation of these projects was regarded as of first priority, as was the continuation of necessary control work in soil erosion. It was calculated that if the water potentialities of Greece were fully developed by a long-term program, it would be possible to irrigate about one-fifth of all the crop land in the country. In addition, the same water would be able to develop as much electricity as that produced by the famous Boulder Dam in the United States.

Land holdings in Greece are much too small and uneconomic for the ap-

plication of modern agricultural science. Some holdings should be consolidated into larger farms, and Greek agriculture generally intensified. Every encouragement should be given by the government, according to the mission, to voluntary effort.

The commission recommended a program of livestock development. Much of Greek livestock was lost during the war, and the country should be restocked with good quality animals. Use should be made of artificial insemination and a strong effort made to increase the number of livestock, not only because nearly three-quarters of the area of Greece is suitable only for natural pasture, but because in pre-war years the average consumption of animal products in Greece was below requirements for human health.

The mission was of the opinion that if Greece could achieve domestic peace and stability, and vigorously put into effect the measures advocated for her agriculture, it should be possible for her to double or treble her national income within the next 20 or 30 years.

Increased assistance for agricultural and consumer co-operatives was recommended. The village co-operatives, co-operative unions and the Agricultural Bank of Greece were commended as together representing "one of the most dynamic and effective forces in present-day Greece." It was recommended that these co-operatives be assisted to extend production credit to farmers. Co-operatives and co-operative unions should also be able to secure long-term loans for the purchase of equipment which they could operate.

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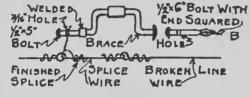
Pails From Gas Tank

Two very strong and handy pails can be made from the gas tank of an old car. Cut the tank in half with the hack saw and then cut down about two inches in 6 or 7 places and bend the top over to form a smooth edge. Drill a hole in each side of the top. Through these put a piece of iron rod long enough to bend and form a handle.

Wire Stretcher from Old Brace

The diagram shows how to make a discarded brace into a very convenient stretcher for repairing broken fence wires. Weld a half-inch bolt about five inches long into an old brace which has had its jaws removed. Drill a 3-16 inch hole two inches from end of bolt. The round bolt head will keep the wire from slipping off the bolt while turning it to stretch the wire.

To mend a broken wire, twist a loop in each of the broken ends. Then take a splice wire, fasten it into one of the loops, push the free end through the

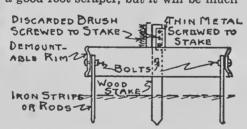


other loop and then through the hole in the bolt. Now turn brace until wire is tight, then twist around splice strand until the end can be released from the bolt.

This plan works very well and the wire can be stretched as tightly as desired. However, there is no need of welding, as the bolt can be a little longer with the end squared as shown at B and be used in any brace just like a bit.

Foot Scraper and Brush

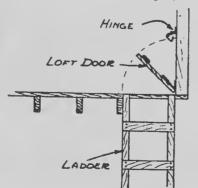
The housewife who is always interested in ideas for keeping dirt out of the house, will welcome the foot scraper and brush as a big help. It is simply an old demountable rim bolted to three or four rods or braces, driven about a foot into the ground at the side of the walk by the kitchen door. This in itself makes a good foot scraper, but it will be much



more effective with the brush and thin metal plate fastened to a wooden stake for cleaning the sides of the shoes. The cost is practically nothing, as the parts can be had for the asking.

Loft Door Catch

Here is a sketch of a very handy barn loft door catch which saves the loft door from unexpectedly bumping your head or dropping on your hand. When you push the door up the latch



(wrongly labelled "hinge" in drawing) catches and holds the door securely. No need to fumble in the dark for the catch. When you come down, simply

reach up and push the catch and let the door down easily .-- I.W.D.

Trough Type Poultry Feeder

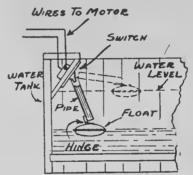
This type of poultry trough prevents the chickens from roosting on it. By cutting the sides as indicated the pointed edges prevent them from stand-



ing on the sides. The revolving spindle on top makes it impossible for them to roost there. It will dump them every time. The dry mash is fed in the Vtrough shown near the top. The whole affair can be about six feet long.

Cheap Tank Switch

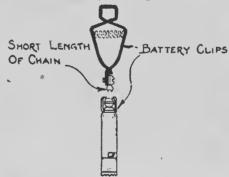
A reader wanted an automatic electric switch in the stock water tank to start and stop the pump motor, so he used an ordinary tumbler electric switch and a tank float. He does not bring out the point either in his diagram or description, but the switch



must be so arranged that the water in the tank can be lowered perhaps 12 to 18 inches before the switch flips back and the motor starts up, as otherwise it will be starting and stopping too often. This can most easily be arranged by having considerable looseness or play in the joint where the short pipe fastens on to the switch tumbler.

Handy Cow Tail Holder

This handy cow tail holder is made of two battery clamps fastened together with a short length of light chain. The

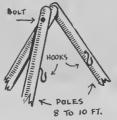


milker fastens one clamp to his overalls seam just above the knee, and when he is seated he clamps the other to the cow's tail. This device holds the tail very well to prevent switching and is quickly attached and released. Two spring-type clothes pins can be used, but the battery clamps hold much better.—I.W.D.

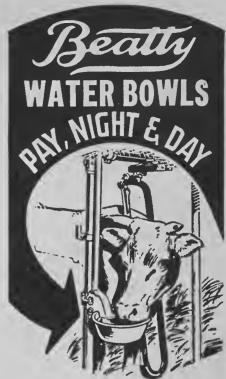
Hog Hanger

These hog hangers are made from

3 poles 8 to 10 feet long, a bolt, and two hooks. Bore a hole all the way through each pole about 2 inches from the top. Fasten the three poles together



with the bolt. Put hooks about one foot down on the inside of the two outside poles. The middle pole is used as a lever to do the lifting.-Mrs. Mildred



Water is one of the most important milk and beef increasing rations on the farm, the cheapest and most often neglected. 871/2% of milk is water. 70% of a cow's body is water. A shortage of water reduces milk flow and weight of beef, more quickly than any other ration

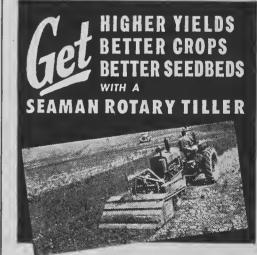
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Income Tax Changes

The basic herd plan, long sought by farmers and stockmen, is now provided for in department regulations. Relief also provided for grain farmers whose volume of sales were adversely affected by wartime quotas

HE correct treatment from a taxation standpoint of the proceeds of dispersal sales of cattle has continued for some time to be one of the most difficult problems of the Taxation Division. Their difficulty has not been over the theory. It is an axiom that receipts from the sale of a capital asset are not taxable income and where cattle are indeed a capital asset the rule holds true. Unfortunately, it is usually the case that a herd of cattle is built up in such a way-often over a period of years—that it is difficult indeed to say what part of it, if any, is a capital asset.

Because of this difficulty the general disposition of the Division has been to treat the whole of the proceeds of a dispersal sale of cattle as income and, if the taxpayer has not filed an income tax return for several years, to call for averaging of the income back over those years, up to five years, in the preparation of the relative income tax returns. This has called forth considerable criticism. Yet the following hypothetical example, which is typical, will show how it works out and why the Division has taken the above position:-

Taxpayer Smith was a farmer who on the 31st December, 1940, was worth as follows:

Farm, etc., valued atLivestock	\$20,000 Nil
	\$20,000
Liabilities	Nil
Net Worth	\$20,000
	\$20,000

Between the 31st December, 1940, and the 31st December, 1945, he produced 30.000 bushels of wheat (plus important quantities of feed grains and hay) with a cash value of \$30,000 apart from the feeds, a cash cost of production of \$16,000 and a taxable income of \$14,000 or \$2,800 a year average, apart from fodder.

The tax payable was probably \$400 to \$450 per annum.

Being ambitious to diversify his operations he paid out \$2,000 a year in the purchase of breeding cattle, a total of \$10,000. He also used up as feed, oats and other grains on which otherwise he would have realized a cash income. The effect was that his cash income was reduced to an average of \$800 a year and he filed no income tax return at all, since his cash income was less than his married-man exemptions.

By 31st December, 1945, he had escaped any taxation on his earnings. His net worth statement, in comparison with that of 31st December, 1940, was as follows:

Farm etc., valued a	1945 t \$20,000 \$10,000	1940 \$20,000 Nil
Liabilities Net worth	\$30,000 1945 Nil \$30,000	\$20,000 1940 Nil \$20,000
NET GAIN	\$30,000	\$20,000 \$10,000

In 1946, Smith sold his entire herd of cattle at a dispersal sale at \$15,000 cash. The Taxation Division took the position that the entire proceeds were taxable income.

Their view was that the \$10,000 actually paid for the cattle, plus the grain and hay fed to them in five years, would have amounted to \$15,000 in all and that Smith, having invested income for five years without paying tax, could not reasonably complain

about having to pay income tax when the investment was cashed in. Under the law, the whole \$15,000 being a cash receipt was taxable in fact in the year 1946. That this ran Smith into a much higher tax bracket in 1946 than he would have been in during the preceding five years is true, but the remedy lay in his own hands from the beginning, namely to declare his true income and pay his tax year by year as he went along.

As he had not filed any return over the five years the procedure of the Division was to allow him to do so retrospectively, to set up his income for each year at what it probably was in truth-the \$15,000 thus being spread back-and, of course, to charge the statutory interest penalties year by year. He had no basis for complaint, indeed he was being given favorable treatment.

Had Smith paid his taxes year by year his position would have been altogether different, for the Division would then have been able to recognize as capital expenditures the amounts spent in buying cattle, which would probably have been \$1,550 to \$1,600 a year after paying tax, instead of \$2,000 as previously. Thus, they would have allowed \$7,750 to \$8,000 as a capital recovery and not taxable. They would also have treated as non-taxable a reasonable proportion of the rest of the proceeds—regarding it as capital gain.

WHAT this means is that the taxpayer who turns in an income tax return every year and pays any tax which may be due is in a strong position to claim that a considerable part of his herd of cattle is a capital asset when he comes to realize upon it.

In the same way a man who inherits money and buys cattle with it or inherits a herd is in a strong position to claim that it is a capital asset. The same would be true of capital raised from the sale of a farm or some other capital asset. It would be necessary, of course, that he be able to show proof.

These illustrations will make clear some of the principal points involved. They bear in particular on the contention that part of the holdings of cattlemen and dairymen should be designated the "Basic Herd" and regarded as a capital asset when sold.

The "Basic Herd" plan contemplates that each cattle or dairy man should be allowed to treat as a capital asset the permanent part of his herd, his breeding stock or his dairy animals and sires. As an example of the way this would work is the hypothetical case of taxpayer Jones, who had a net worth statement on 31st December, 1940, as follows:

Cattle—60 head Farm	\$ 3,600 \$20,000
Total Assets	\$23,600
Liability	Ni1 \$23,600
	\$23,600

Jones having filed an income tax return year by year up to 1940 and having gone over his past operations carefully, concluded that 50 head of his cattle were his permanent herd and that 10 were offspring intended for sale. After discussing this with the local District Office and showing the records, he obtained that Office's agreement that 50 were the Basic Herd. Year by year thereafter, all sales of cattle which did not reduce the total herd below 50 were included as income in his annual return and all purchases were charged up as a deduction from income. He THE COUNTRY GUIDE

paid his income tax year by year as he went along.
In 1946 he had 80 cattle on hand and

decided to hold a dispersal sale. After confirming with his District Income Tax Office, as a matter of prudent routine, that the 50 figure for Basic Herd still stood, he sold out and realized \$8,000 for the animals, an average of \$100 each. When he came to make up his income tax return for 1946, he allowed \$5,000-50x\$100- as a capital realization and \$3,000 was taken into his return as taxable income.

In the light of these illustrations the policy of the Division is re-stated broadly for the two different main groups as follows:

Group 1: Taxpayers who file Income Tax Returns year-by-year and pay whatever Tax may be assessed:

These cattle or dairy men will decide for themselves at the end of any one calendar year the number of cattle they consider their basic herd and will advise the District Office of the Taxation Division of this when filing their Income Tax Return for the year. Provided the return is in good order, the District Office will accept the taxpayer's own figure.

The following results will ensue:

(a) to the extent that sales of cattle do not reduce that number the proceeds of such sales will be taken into income each year.

(b) the cost of any new animals bought will be allowed as a deduction from income each year, unless it is desired to increase the number of the Basic Herd.

(c) if in a subsequent year it is desired to increase the number of the Basic Herd, a statement to this effect must be made to the District Office at the time the relative Income Tax Return is filed. The cost of the new animals, if purchased, will not be allowed as a deduction from income. If the additions come from home-grown animals their estimated market value must be added back to the taxable income.

Provided the Return is in good order as aforesaid the District Office will then accept the increased figure for the

Basic Herd.

(d) if a dispersal sale is held of the total herd, the Department will accept as capital realizations and treat as non-taxable the proceeds of the sale of the number of cattle constituting the Basic Herd. Unless, before the sale is held, the taxpayer gives the District Office a list of the animals constituting the Basic Herd and then takes care to keep the proceeds of these animals separate, the proceeds of the Basic Herd will be calculated at the average of the proceeds of the sale of all animals, with the provision that where a baby animal is sold with its mother, this is to be treated as a sale of one animal, not two, in calculating the average.

(e) Where a taxpayer sells off animals to such an extent that he has less than the number of his Basic Herd on hand at the end of the calendar yearso that he has had in effect a partial dispersal sale—the same principles as outlined above will apply. If the taxpayer specifies in advance the animals he is selling out of the Basic Herd and keeps the proceeds separate, the total will be accepted as the amount of the capital receipts; otherwise the average price realized for all animals sold will be used in determining the non-taxable

The Division's records as to the established Basic Herd will be adjusted downwards where a realization of part of them occurs as above outlined.

Group 2: Taxpayers who have not filed Income Tax Returns regularly:

In this case it is largely a question of proof.

A. A taxpayer who can demonstrate reasonably to the satisfaction of the District Office that in times past-perhaps a long time ago or over a period of years-he purchased a stated number of cattle and at no time deducted



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their cost in calculating income for taxation purposes or whose income before any such deduction was less than the then existing statutory exemptions and further can satisfy the Division that he has possessed at least that number of the same kind of animals ever since, will be entitled to establish his Basic Herd at that number, provided he files an income tax return in satisfactory form for the year for which it is desired that the Basic Herd be established and for all subsequent years.

B. Where the taxpayer is not in the above class, but can prove that a certain number of livestock were on hand at a certain date, and maintains that they were capital assets by reason of having been built up over a number of years in which he had no taxable income, by the retention of natural increase and/or small purchases from time to time, his claims will be examined carefully and will be admitted if they are found to be reasonable, and if the District Office becomes convinced that the cash value of fodder and other costs of raising the animals, if added to the taxpayer's other income would still have left him in the non-taxable class. In his case also, an income tax return in good order must be filed for the year in which the Basic Herd is

C. In other circumstances, no part of the livestock holdings will be admitted as capital assets.

Taxpayers in classes A and B above of Group 2, having established their Basic Herd, will be regarded as being in the same class as those in Group 1, provided thereafter that they file an income tax return in proper form each year. The same results will ensue for them in the event of dispersal sales or partial dispersals as for those who have always filed income tax returns.

Policy as to Taxable Income:

1. Where the Basic Herd principle is accepted, it follows that the proceeds of the sale of livestock which do not reduce the Basic Herd are income taxable for the year of sale.

2. Where no claim for Basic Herd is made or, if made, is such that it cannot be admitted and the taxpayer has filed no return for several years, the proceeds of dispersal sales may be spread over a number of years, not exceeding five, appropriate to the circumstances. Naturally, a herd of cattle bought out of income in one year for finishing and re-sold the next would not be spread back at all. The proceeds of cattle bought from income as yearlings and carried through to maturity before sale might be spread over two or three years, according to the facts.

T is impossible in advance to cover all the situations which will arise in individual cases, and the above is intended as a broad statement of policy. That it is complicated is due to the difficulties which always arise from lack of care about the maintenance of records. The problem is relatively simple where proper books of account are kept. It is unnecessary to say that there is every desire on the part of the Division to be fair but the taxpayer who fails to keep proper records handicaps himself from the beginning. Obviously, the Taxation Division, which is required to look for provable facts in connection with the income and expenses of all taxpayers, cannot make exceptions.

Thus, it is the duty of the Division to recommend earnestly that all livestock and dairy men keep adequate records. This can be done simply if the entries are made without fail on the same day as the transactions occur.

The above statement of policy has in it elements of the experimental and naturally the department reserve the right to amend it should abuses occur or should it work unfairly. It is desired that a record should be kept of objections or suggestions for changes so that it may be reviewed in about a year's time.

A NOTHER Taxation Division directive offers relief to farmers who in the early war years were prevented from selling their full crop by quota restrictions on grain deliveries, and therefore had abnormally large sales and cash income in later years when sales quotas were removed.

The institution of a quota on grain deliveries in 1941 prevented many farmers from selling in the year of growth or in the same crop year a large part of their crop. Later quotas were removed or substantially relaxed and, due to a world shortage of grain, farmers were pressed to deliver as much as possible. The result was that incomes in 1944 and 1945 in many instances were larger than would have been the case had there been no quota system. Representations were made that this imposed a taxation hardship.

The Taxation Division has announced that to alleviate this, in those instances where the farmer was prevented by government control from disposing of his entire crop, the following procedure will be adopted in respect of all unassessed returns and all returns where an appeal or an objection has been made—

"The proceeds of grain sold in 1944 or 1945, which was grown in years which were subject to quota, may be added to income of the year of growth, provided—

"1. That the farmer can satisfy this Division that he sold grain to the full extent of his quota each crop year, and

"2. That the grain carried over as a result of quota restrictions was sold on or before 31st July, 1945.

"In other words, where carry-over was by voluntary action on the part of the farmer, he will be taxed on a strictly cash basis, but where a farmer has demonstrated by subsequent sales that presumably he would have sold his entire crop in the year of growth or the same crop year an accrual basis as to sales will be permitted."

UNDER THE PEACE TOWER

Continued from page 13

We might, for instance, pass up cottons for rayons, oranges for apple juice, and so on. Where we have to have American help is in coal and oil. It is hard to see how we could survive without it. No one who has spent a winter on the prairie, for instance, has any idea what farmer and urbanite alike would do without coal or oil. Austerity therefore would permit us to import essentials, but that's all. We'd have to pass up American cars, American cottons, and American machinery, just to mention an important trio of U.S. imports. Many things we could do without. It would be interesting to know, for instance, why we have imported wooden spoons from Chicago, paper goods from New York, and other Coals-to-Newcastle items.

Lastly, austerity seems like an unpopular political move. But the way Prime Minister Mackenzie King could handle it, it might be the platform to ride him back into power once more. First of all, he could count on support from his own party. Second, the Conservative Party is traditionally the anti-American and high tariff (another word for embargo) party. The CCF favors a controlled economy. Mr. King could cite an embargo as being planks from the Messrs. Bracken's and Coldwell's platforms. The idea of this being an election issue might seem to you, the reader, at first glance, academic. But I can assure you, that where elections are concerned, Mackenzie King is never academic.



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From the Saga of a Hired Man

Tommy and I were determined to work on the same farm or it wouldn't have happened By NORMAN L. DANIELS

call the old Employment Bureau on First Street in Edmonton-had closed for the day when my partner and I arrived there one day in the spring of 1925. We had worked during the summer of 1924 west of the city, in the Lac Ste. Anne territory.

The country in which we found ourselves in 1925 wasn't advanced to the same degree as the older settled districts. The farming population was confined mostly to bachelors, or young married couples with small children. There was no "outside" accommodation for the hired man; he usually slept on a cot in what the young and ambitious wife some day intended to be a bathroom or else bunked with one of the kids. In this way the hired man was more like one of the family and the family didn't appear to be quite so distant as we later found they appeared to be on the prairies. The casual labor that was employed for the haying and harvest usually slept in the hay loft.

The man who hired for the summer was labelled the "steady man," and in that capacity he had a lot more privileges than the harvest hand and since every virtue has its vice he also came in for the extra chores. However, we didn't mind that. There were many little exclusive affairs where we were considered eligible to attend. If for instance Uncle Jim came out for a few days he never failed to bring "something" for the family. A box of chocolates for Mama, candies or toys for the kids and usually a little liquid refreshment for Father, and as a rule we were invited to sample everything.

We always got up in the morning around five o'clock and on the farm I have in mind now the farmer and I had an agreement whereby he did all the morning chores, which consisted of milking five cows, feeding about 20 pigs and filling up the water tank ready for the horses after breakfast, while I took care of the stable chores such as feeding, currying and harnessing my own outfit of six horses as well as his. On Sunday morning, however, the situation was a little different; the farmer stayed in bed an extra couple of hours and I got up and did the

Over the years I have roamed Saskatchewan and Alberta I've heard farm laborers declare in most emphatic tones that doing barnyard chores just ain't the thing for the hired man, but I've always noticed that one good turn usually begets another and with the exception of the rare instances when I worked for bachelor farmers my clothes have been washed, overalls patched, and on picnic days my suit brushed and pressed; and I remember on one farm where the eight-year-old girl would, on special occasions, shine my Sunday shoes. All these little favors were, of course, paid for in like coin. If the farmer and his wife wanted to spend a couple of days in the city, they knew that during their absence things would be O.K. at home.

But to get back to the spring of 1925. My partner for this particular season was one Tommy O'Shea, and the last time I heard of Tommy he was employed in Winnipeg. Having been brought up in a "homey" atmosphere we both had a yen to work for a married man if at all possible.

T was about the first week in April and Tommy had returned from Slave Lake where he had been cooking for a logging outfit all winter and after a couple of weeks in the "bright lights" he found the finances at a very low ebb. In fact they were so low that it

HE Slave Market—as we used to was necessary to dispose of a \$40.00 overcoat for \$5.00. On the blackboard, hanging on the wall of the Slave Market were listed the names of the farmers requiring men for spring work. We scanned the list and bearing in mind the fact that all farmers of German nationality we had previously known were family men, we decided on an employer with a German name.

We conjured up visions of a buxom Mamma, highly efficient in the art of concocting a dish of wieners and sauer kraut that would tickle the palate of a hungry man. The thoughts of the luscious deep apple pie we were positive would be dished up to us hastened us to apply for the job. We toyed with the idea that there might be such things as Sunday picnics, and on the whole we felt pretty well disposed towards the job. The address was Fleet so we bought two tickets and arrived in that wellknown one horse town east of Castor about 6.30 p.m.

In view of the fact that we were financially embarrassed, it was (if we expected to get in a meal that day) absolutely necessary that we get out to the job that night. We did, by walking over five miles of muddy roads until we arrived at what we had learned in town was our final destination. The house was situated some 50 yards from the road and was approximately 16x24 in size and in no way resembled what we had expected. We made our way up to the window and peered through the accumulation of dust and dirt that had gathered there over many moons. Instead of all the things we had expected we saw lying on a couch which would have been a disgrace to a man boarding house, an extremely formidand a pair of earphones clasped to his head. We looked at each other, Tommy and I; we gave thought to the fact that we were absolutely broke and decidedly hungry. We rapped on the door. The buxom woman wasn't there, there were no boys or girls and the luscious pie was just a dream and nothing more.

JOWEVER, old Frank the inmate in-However, old I lead the Employment Bureau and upon learning that we were, grabbed the biggest butcher knife I have ever seen and left the house. While he was gone Tommy and I took stock as it were, of the "layout." Just two rooms in indescribable confusion. The warming closet on the old stove seemed to groan under the weight of the eggshells. The side table on which were stacked the dirty dishes couldn't possibly have held another spoon, the paper on the ceiling hung heavily with cobwebs. The other room held two beds and any explanation of their condition after the above is unnecessary. At this point Frank returned with two slabs of steak, which we estimated would weigh three pounds apiece.

Just as proof of the fact that one should never judge a fiddle by the case it's in, my partner and I stayed there all summer. The next morning after our arrival, he turned the house over to us and for four days we scrubbed and cleaned, washed and boiled until at the finish it was a fairly presentable looking place. In the months that followed Frank did the cooking and we did the outside work. We stayed with him until August until the wanderlust struck us again, when we decided to hit for the bald prairies of Saskatchewan. But that's another story.

In the years since I have often thought of the princely way old Frank (he has since passed on) treated us youngsters and recall that even though he didn't have the family we expected him to have he rated high with us.



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PRIZE

Continued from page 6

red health of the worker on the land. He called up no memory.

"How do you do?" She held out her hand. "No, we haven't met before."

It was a surprisingly limp hand. Javis felt absurdly disappointed. It said so plainly that this handshake was a mere formality, that she failed to find him interesting.

All the same, his own hand wanted badly to go on holding hers. He had to force it to let go.

He found himself rushing breath-lessly into speech.

"Unless you call it meeting when I wished you good-night across your gate and you—er—didn't wish me one back."

She laughed, a little absently. Javis fell in love with her laugh. It was vivid and clear-cut, exactly like herself.

"Perhaps there was a sunset?" she suggested. "I'm afraid I'm rather hard of hearing when there are sunsets about."

"Or scenes like this," added Rachel with a twinkle.

"Or scenes like this," she admitted.

SHE looked with kindling eyes down the long hedge, lined all the way now with match-ploughs, each as long as a barn and brilliant with new blue and red paint, while two and two the horses stood patiently, groomed till they shone like glass, each with a nodding topknot of flowers and with mane and tail braided with ribbons, the arches of bells over the hames of their collars striking sparks from the sun, the amulet brasses upon harness and reins and whip polished until they glittered against the blackened leather like hearts and moons of gold.

"You know, it's utterly magnificent!" she exclaimed. "It's somehow so English that it makes you laugh to stop yourself from crying!"

Javis loved her twice over for that. He knew exactly what she meant. He himself had the same feeling about these pageants of the soil.

"I suppose," she went on, "the prizes must be equally magnificent?"

Rachel bubbled with amusement.

"Well, they start magnificently enough, with a gold watch for first prize in each class."

"And a silver one for second," Javis added.

"Then they tail off dreadfully, with a whip for the best headland."

"And a wheelbarrow for the best start."

"And a pair of sheets for the best bifurrow. Though why a bifurrow should go all domestic I can't imagine. Can you, Javis?"

Javis turned a deaf ear to the question. It was a little early yet, he felt, to be discussing sheets with the divinity one had set one's heart on marrying.

The divinity meanwhile was wrinkling a charming nose in mock dismay.

"What! All this pomp and circumstance just to win a wheelbarrow? It has such a flavor of the medieval jousts that I thought one would win at least a wife!"

"As a matter of fact," Rachel confessed, "It's at the ploughing match that all Thurlows win something quite as important—independence."

Katrine's look of interest begged:

"Do tell me!"

"Well, you see, Grandfather had a horror of the family becoming what he called mere gentlemen farmers."

"I know," Katrine nodded. "Huntin', fishin' and shootin', and all that."

"Not that he minded huntin', fishin' and shootin'," put in Javis, conscious of the fact that he, like all the family, did

more than a little of all three, "as long as some honest-to-goodness farmin' was done as well."

"So he left his money tied up," Rachel continued, "so that every boy of the family has to live at home and work on his father's farm until he wins a ploughing match."

"With only a bachelor allowance," Javis reminded her, ruefully.

"Then when they've won their spurs, as it were, they're set up in splendid style in a farm of their own."

"So that it is a sort of joust for us, after all," Javis pointed out. "Because what it comes to is that no Thurlow is in a position to marry until he has won a match."

Katrine seemed strangely moved. She reached out and took both Rachel's hands in hers. Javis found himself thinking how friendly those brown hands looked when they stopped being limp. He would have liked to feel them holding his own as vitally as this.

"My dear Rachel! I see now why you sent round to say I *must* keep today free for this!"

Javis sensed the presence of mysterious undercurrents. Both girls seemed suddenly to have been lifted away into an emotional world of their own. They regarded each other with little soft smiles, like children with a secret. He wondered vaguely what it was all about.

"Do you know Charity Farm?" murmured Rachel. "By the church, with the thatch and carved Ham stone windows? If any Thurlow wins the match today, he can move in there at Christmas. It's the loveliest little place!"

"It hardly seems a fair method, though," said Katrine doubtfully. "Some are sure to be cleverer than others."

"Grandfather," Rachel explained, "thought good ploughing was like greatness—if you weren't born to it, then you could achieve it; and if you weren't born and couldn't achieve, then you must have it thrust upon you."

"But does it work, really?"

"I think so. Don't you, Javis?"

"It seems to," he admitted. "Most Thurlows are born. Like Albion."

"And the rest achieve? Like you," Rachel smiled.

"Apparently. There never seems to be any who have to be thrust upon."

For the first time Katrine spoke directly to Javis.

"You said Albion was born. Does that mean he's really good?"

"Albion?" Javis repeated to himself, surprised. She had said it so naturally, like one used to saying it. So she knew his cousin, was even on terms of Christian names with him. A great deal seemed to have happened while he him-

self had been away.
"Good? Why, he's brilliant!" he
praised generously. "He ploughs like—
like one inspired!"

"Does that mean you think he'll win?"
"Well, I shouldn't like to say about that. There are some very pretty ploughmen in our class this year."

"But you said inspired," she persisted.

Javis nodded.

"There's just one trouble with inspiration. It has been known to fail."

"How did you—what did Rachel call it?—achieve?"

He quickened. Was he beginning to exist for her at last?

"By a very pedestrian method," he told her, modestly. "I only plough by taking pains."

"By the way," she said, "isn't it time Albion was here?"

Javis felt a little stab of disappointment. The spurt of interest had died; perhaps in any case it was only academic. He felt as if she had offered her hand, and again he had found it limp.

He looked at his watch.

"Ten to nine," he reported. "And we're due to start at nine."

"Oh," said Rachel serenely, "he'll appear just on the stroke. Albion always



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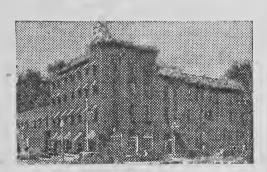
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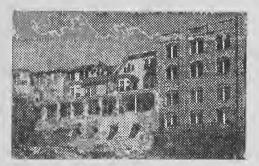


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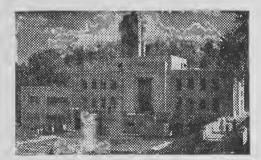


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does. Politeness of princes, he calls it, but it's really a mixture of laziness and luck."

"But this is so important!" cried Katrine, moving restlessly. "It would be too utterly dreadful if he turned up late." Then her worried tone turned to one of vast relief. "Ah! Here he is!"

They watched him, standing in silence while he manoeuvred his team into position. Then he came towards them, beaming, a gay and graceful scapegrace.

H^E patted Rachel's shoulder affectionately in passing.

"Hullo, sweet coz! Do you know you're looking more than ever like a poet's milkmaid?"

"And you look like — like what?" Rachel appealed, laughing, to Katrine.

"Oh, like the laughing cavalier masquerading as a farmer's son!" Katrine laughed back.

She gave him her hand. Javis could not help looking to see if it was limp. No; it had a cordial grip for Albion's. What with himself had been a mere formality was now a personal greeting.

Albion was wearing two red autumn roses in his buttonhole. He took them out and offered one to each of the girls with a sprightly little bow. Javis wished that he had thought of that. Yet for some reason, to offer a girl a couple of hazel nuts was not at all the same thing.

"We were just wondering what had happened to you," Katrine told Albion.

"What happened to me? I overslept," he laughed, charmingly unrepentant. "It's a weary week, this one before ploughing match. You're up every night burning the midnight candle in the saddle room, cleaning the harness and oiling the chains and polishing the brasswork." He turned to Katrine, waving a hand towards his team. "Do you know that there are fifty brasses on the reins alone?"

"Well, there are just as many on Javis's, yet *he* was here with the lark," Rachel smilingly reproved him.

It was perfectly true, yet Javis wished Rachel had not mentioned it. Albion's successful last-minute entrance made his own conscientiousness seem futile and a little priggish.

"Oh, you've done their tails in the herringbone twist!" Rachel noted. "Javis has done his in the Grecian plait. But why the wheat-ears, Albion?"

"Oh, I couldn't get tails and ribbons to mix at all. The ribbons were too soft. I thought wheat-ears would be stiffer."

"I'm glad you used wheat-ears," Katrine commended him. "They're so appropriate, don't you think? I mean, they remind you that ploughing prepares for harvest."

Javis gazed forlornly at his team's beribboned tails, and wished he had thought of wheat-ears.

The stable clock at the farm below began ponderously to strike the hour. Instantly conversation ceased, and each ploughman left his group of friends and came forward to his plough's tail.

"Good luck!" called Katrine from behind.

"Good luck!" echoed Rachel quietly.
Javis turned to nod his thanks, but
they did not catch his eye. They were
both smiling at Albion.

The ninth stroke died. The row of men tautened. The signal cracked.

"Up, Leader! On, Blossom!" cried Javis.

"Up, Captain! On, Blackbird!" cried Albion.

"Up, Duke! On, Diamond! Up, Madam! On, Jack!" cried fifty hearty voices, and with a clash of bells and a tossing of topknots a hundred horses stumbled forward and fifty gleaming ploughshares slid into the ground.

The ploughing match had begun.

Glancing up at intervals to catch the twinkle of the whitened wand which

marked his boundary, Javis fared gently down the middle of his plot, eyes and hands and head intent upon the straightness of this first furrow by which all the rest would dress their line. The feather of the plough cut the earth with delicate precision, the curve of the ploughshare turned it neatly over, and with every step he took he examined and assessed his work with the deliberate thoroughness of the true craftsman

He plodded down to the lower hedge, and with much straining and many pauses swung his team round at the headland there. As he glanced along the brown line which he had scored on the broad green bosom of the field, he noticed that Albion was already over the brow of the hill again. He sighed, a little enviously. He himself would not dare to work so swiftly.

Slowly he started on his upward journey, one half of his mind busy with the problems of his task, the other half with the problem of Katrine. Her friendly interest in Albion had made so yery clear by contrast her indifference to himself. Today, as on that first evening, though she had looked at him she had somehow failed to see him. That limp hand expressed her attitude exactly.

"If only I could make her see me!" he thought.

And suddenly he realized how it could be done.

If he won the ploughing match, she could not help but see him.

But could he win it? That must depend to some extent, he reflected, upon the standard of his rivals; but for himself, he knew that he had never done better ploughing than this bi-furrow.

Reaching the top just as Albion was about to start going down again with his press-wheel, he caught the end of a conversation with Katrine.

"It's a pity it's clay on such a fine day," remarked Albion.

"Why?" asked Katrine.

"Well, clay cuts better with a drop of rain."

"Then we'll pray for rain."

Albion pointed out merrily:

"But to be any use it would have to fall only on my plot."

"We could specify that!"

RACHEL came towards Javis with a radiant smile.

"I've inspected everybody's bi-furrow but yours. Stand still a minute, Javis, while I look."

She looked. Katrine looked with her. What Katrine saw was just a furrow like everyone else's furrow. What Rachel saw was a thing of beauty fashioned by superb technique, as real an example of geometry raised to art as was Giotto's circle.

She gave a little gasp. It occurred to Javis that but for the fact that she was his cousin and his friend it would have sounded like a gasp of consternation. For a little longer she stood with her face turned to the field, then spoke with a quiet smile of congratulation.

"Whatever you'll do with them I really don't know, Javis. But you'll certainly get that pair of sheets for your bi-furrow!"

Javis smiled to himself. He knew what he would do with them. Charity Farm was going to need furnishing at Christmas.

As he bent to attach his chain and press-wheel to the plough, he heard Katrine whisper:

"But you said Albion's was the best."
"So it was," Rachel whispered back,
"until Javis finished his."

"Are you sure his is better?"

"I'm a Thurlow," Rachel reminded her. "I can't help knowing perfect ploughing when I see it."

"But how can you tell? They look alike to me,"

Rachel hesitated. It was not easy to explain to the novice all the points for which the expert looked.



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"Well, the headland's as neat as a nest, and there isn't a brockle or a crumble anywhere. There's not a blade of grass showing in the whole length of the joint. The furrow's dead straight; and the ridge is as sharp as a knife. And a hundred more things like that."

"But Albion simply must win, Rachel! I can't bear it if he doesn't!"

Javis was thinking indulgently as he went down the field again:

"What a child you are! Because you know Albion, 'Albion simply must win!' But I can't let Albion win just because you like him, my dear. This match has to win me a wife, as well as a home to take her to."

Down to the lower hedge, back over the crest, he plodded wisely and steadily, coaxing his horses over difficult patches with the soft sounds they understood. calling them to stop again and yet again while he adjusted a nut here and another there with his heavy spanner. Now his hands rested lightly on the handles, now bore heavily as the share grated over a stone. Now the quality of the ploughbreast's turning of the soil occupied his mind, and now the adjustment of the plough's mechanism.

When he reached the top and looked back at his work, he saw his perfect bifurrow with a furrow as perfect nestling at either side. The autumn sun warmed his back. The beech leaves fell like lazy flakes of gold. He felt gravely happy standing there, an artist in this oldest of the crafts, rejoicing in his handiwork and knowing it was good.

"I plough by taking pains," he had said. And after all, perfection was merely a matter of taking enough of them.

He grinned delightedly as he caught Katrine's smothered exclamation:

"Oh dear! Can't we kidnap him, or something?"

"Sh!" Rachel warned her. "He'll hear you!"

"But just think, Rachel! Charity Farm!"

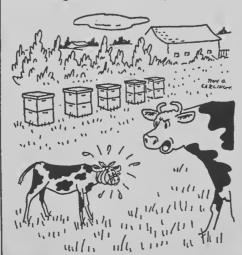
"Never mind," said Rachel, in the tone of one who offered very doubtful comfort. "It isn't as if it were a case of only now or never. Whichever of the two doesn't win this year is sure to next."

"But a year's such an eternity when one's waiting to get married!"

TAVIS passed on in a stupor. He was jolted out of his ecstasy of creation; his delight in his handiwork died. All in a moment his dreams were as dead as the beech leaves. It was as if, along with the beech leaves, he was ploughing them in.

He wondered dully about their love affair. How had it started? Had Albion really walked up to the front door of Jasmine Cottage and announced himself as lover? Some such short-cut he must have taken for things to have reached this stage in only five weeks. Only five weeks! But could they be really sure in only five weeks? His own heart answered that. He himself had been really sure in only five minutes.

He had wanted her name changed to Thurlow. It seemed he was getting his wish granted after all.



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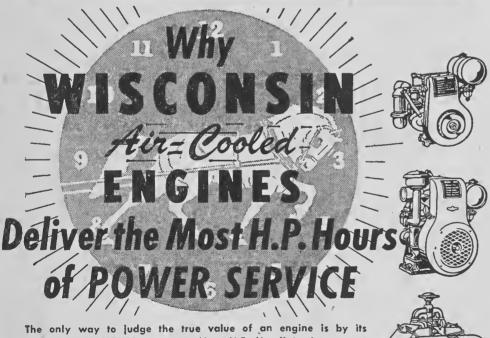
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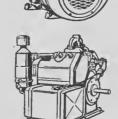
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What did it matter now whether she saw him or not? He took a great resolve as he climbed the slope. For Katrine's sake, Albion must be helped to plough his best.

He stood at the headland and watched Albion's ploughing. It was brilliant; it was, as he himself had said, inspired. Yet it fell short of perfection by some tiny thing it was difficult to name. Javis was inclined to call it patience.

He turned to the two girls. They were both looking a little strained and pale, he noticed. Rachel would naturally be feeling for her friend. That gasp, he realized in the light of his new knowledge, had been one of consternation, after all.

He did not know how harsh and choked his voice sounded as he spoke.

"Tell Albion his plough wants setting; he should put his spanner oftener to the nuts. Tell him to remember a match-plough's heavy and wants heavy handling. Tell him to lean harder on the handles over stones, and to keep his eye on the plough's nose. Tell him not to speed the plough."

Rachel said quietly:

"I'll tell him, Javis."

Katrine said nothing She

Katrine said nothing. She only stared at him.

Without another word Javis turned and went on ploughing. He was working mechanically now, no longer taking pleasure in what he did, but out of sheer habit continuing to take pains. Without his volition, his eye continued to control his hand, and his mind to ask the questions which made for flawless workmanship. Was the share cutting evenly? Was it going deep enough? Was he turning earth to meet earth in a sealed line without grass showing in the joint? Was he keeping the measurements exact? Was the furrow crumbling?

The stable clock struck one as he came back up the slope. He heard it with relief; that meant he would not have to face Katrine again. By the time he reached the top, she and Rachel would have gone to lunch at the farm below.

Already the onlookers were drifting down. He could hear the raucous, hostile greeting of the geese as the first guests entered the barton, where preparations for this moment had been in progress all the morning. On his way down his plot he had heard the noise of the threshing barn being swept and garnished and the trestle tables laid there, and had glimpsed the farmhands staggering among the geese with whole hams and truckles of cheese, with barrels of cider and great stone pickle jars.

The field was left to the ploughmen; and these, one by one, as they reached the top of the field, abandoned the plough for a seat in the hedge and a welcome interval filled with bread and cheese and cider. When Javis came up, Albion was already eating—quickly and absently, in the same way as he worked.

Javis took his own lunch from his pocket and threw himself down beside him.

"Going to rain, after all," Albion greeted him, diving for his firkin among the trailing wild clematis.

Javis looked at the sky, and noticed for the first time how overcast it had become.

"Looks like a real downpour coming," he remarked.

"Rachel gave me your message," said Albion cheerfully. "Good advice, too, for those who could profit by it."

"You mean you can't?"

Albion laughed.

"You know my way of working! If I thought of what I was doing, I couldn't plough a yard. I can only do it by leaving my hands to get on with the work while I—er—think pleasant thoughts."

Javis guessed from his smile what those pleasant thoughts were about.

"Ah, yes," he said. "I hear you're getting married."

Albion laughed again light-heartedly. "Now who told you that? I thought there was only one person we'd let into the secret."

Javis said more lightly than he felt: "Oh, I overheard two little birds. Are congratulations in order?"

Albion rose and scattered his crumbs. He stretched lazily before going back to his plough.

"Better keep them till I've won the ploughing match!" he said with cheerful optimism.

Javis strolled along the hedge, soberly stirred by the scene—the steadily moving ploughs, the great horses straining with tossing heads, the silhouettes of men and ploughs and teams on the crest of the hill, the twinkling of brass frontlets, the richly burred cries. Adding nine inches with each furrow, the paths of brown had widened, eating into the green of the field until now the pattern had changed to paths of green upon the brown. Javis examined each plot in turn.

There was some very pretty ploughing, but two plots stood out—his own and Albion's. There was little to choose between them, but that little was enough. His own plot still was first.

Leaning on the handles of his plough, he slowly thought the matter out.

It was quaintly, almost reverently, that he was in love. He wanted Katrine badly; but even more he wanted her to have what she herself wanted. He thought:

"I said I couldn't let Albion win just because she liked him. But because she loves him I must."

There was only one way to do it. Since Albion could not plough better than Javis, Javis must plough worse than Albion.

Deliberately, as he trudged behind the plough, he jarred the handles, swerving the track of the shining blade out of the straight. Deliberately, at the end of the furrow, he let the team swing round clumsily, marring the even contour of the headland. The lover warred against the craftsman in him, the one crumbling the soil the other strove to keep unbroken, leaving grass uncovered, varying the depth of cut and the space between the furrows. It was harder than he had realized to plough badly. It was harder in more ways than one.

It began to rain, as Albion had prophesied. The scored earth shone and turned to a richer brown, with threads of a fresher green between the plots. Javis was grateful for the rain's cool touch. Self-abnegation, he found, was producing the symptoms of fever.

Half past two struck. The ploughing match was over.

Javis felt suddenly tired out. He wanted to sink down among his own furrows and stay there for ever.

But he knew he must get away quickly, before everyone came back from lunch. He could not bear to be present and hear the disappointed comment his plot was sure to cause. For though the judges would stay on all the afternoon with their rulers and their notebooks, to any skilled eye the results of the match were already apparent.

He made his way round the field to his wagon. It was raining harder now. He felt he could hardly face the ploughing match dinner tonight, at which, after the toasts of the King, the Clergy, the Forces, and Agriculture, the results would be announced. For Albion, a gold watch, and Charity Farm, and Katrine. For himself, a pair of sheets. A pair of sheets!

It did not matter about the watch and the farm. He could win another of both next year. But he could not win another Katrine. There was not another Katrine.

Wearily, in the driving rain, he took the plough apart and lifted the pieces into the wagon. Wearily he hitched the horses. ALREADY, in front of him, other wagons were lumbering out of the field and back to their various farms, the tired ploughman at the reins, his wife or his sweetheart beside him on the frontboard, nestling close that one coat might shelter them both from the rain. He had thrown his own coat loosely over his shoulders and was taking up his reins when he saw Katrine coming towards him, a small, gallant figure with clay on her jodhpurs and rain gleaming in her hair.

"I wanted to tell you I'm so glad you took my hints," she announced, halting at his wheel.

"Hints?" He did not know in the least what she was talking about.

"You see, I couldn't say straight out with Rachel there that you ought to let Albion win. So I had to talk to her about it and let you overhear."

So she knew that he had let Albion win! But how could she know? Nobody could know.

"When you gave us that advice for Albion," she went on, "I thought perhaps you were beginning to understand. And when we came back from lunch, and Rachel said how your ploughing had fallen off, I knew then that you had. You do feel, don't you, like me, that they just had to be made happy?"

"They?" The word was forced from him.

She stared, wide-eyed, then pointed to a wagon in front of them. He saw a man he recognized as Albion helping up a girl he recognized as Rachel. Albion was as gay as a lark; Rachel shone softly with joy, as a flower shines after rain. They laughed; they clasped hands; they kissed. Then Albion threw his coat about them both, and the wagon passed on.

He looked down to find Katrine still staring up at him.

"What did you mean—'they'?" she demanded.

He - floundered, scarcely knowing what he said, still less what he implied:

"You were so interested in Albion.
.. You wanted him to win ..."

"Of course I was. Of course I did. Rachel had told me all about their love affair." Suddenly she saw the implication of his words. "Do you mean you thought it was I he wanted to marry?" And then she saw the further implication. "Why, then you lost the match for me!"

There was no doubt about her seeing him now. There was wonder in her gaze, and even a little awe. And suddenly he realized the delicate irony of events. By throwing away his chance to shine in her eyes he had shone beyond his hopes. That bad bit of work was the best he had ever done.

"Please can I come under your coat?" she asked, quite humbly. "It's—er—it's raining!"

She reached up her hand for his help. This time it was no limp hand. It closed very firmly indeed upon his own.



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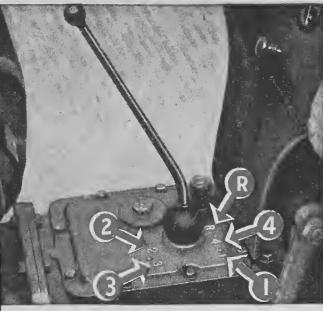
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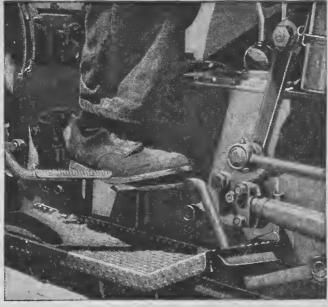
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We hope that you will make it a point to have a good look at the new Ford Tractor, and at the new implements specially designed for it. Remember, too, that back of the tractor and these implements is a type and quality of service second to none in the tractor and implement field.

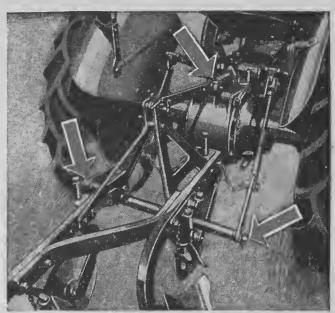




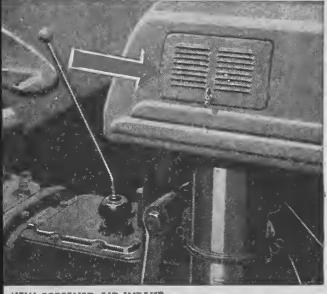
NEW 4-SPEED TRANSMISSION gives you the advantage of a fourth forward speed, with stepped up top speed for road travel and faster operation in other speeds. New helical gears are in constant mesh, for easy, quiet shifting. Transmission cover plate is easily removable.



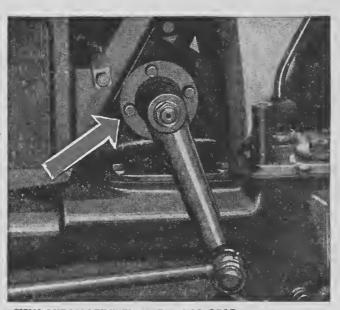
NEW BRAKE PEDALS, both mounted on right side. Either right or left brake can be operated with the right foot, or both operated together, leaving foot free for clutch. New Duo-servo type brakes give positive braking on either or both rear wheels.



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Several of the implements now in the Dearborn line are listed at the right. Many more are being developed and will be ready soon. You will want Dearborn Implements because they are specially designed to operate with the Ford Tractor, and are of quality construction throughout. Expert implement engineers have designed them and practical farmers have tested them.

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Don't shoot, lady! Pie's wonderful. Flaky-crusted, creamy-filled goodness. We're simply saying it's typical of the many soft foods you eat.

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No, but there's no chew in them! Your gums need exercise to help keep them strong and healthy.

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No? Remember neglected gums may lead to "pink tooth brush". Much smarter to put Ipana and massage to work. That'll help keep your gums firmer, your smile more sparkling!

MY SMILE! How come?

A sparkling smile calls for sound, bright teeth. Sound, bright teeth depend so much on healthy gums. Ipana and massage helps keep gums firmer, healthier.

Is "pink tooth brush" really serious?

Lady, a tinge of "pink" on your tooth brush is a high sign from your gums. If you see it, hop to it and head for your dentist's.

Chances are, he'll say it's sensitive gums cheated of work and exercise by soft, creamy foods. And he's very likely to suggest "the helpful stimulation of Ipana Tooth Paste and massage."

Want to help your smile to sparkle-to be your brightest charm? Then use Ipana and massage.



"I love Ipana's clean, fresh taste! And that stimulating tingle when I massage my gums seems to tell me they're improving. My teeth are brighter already!"



"You see, Ipana Tooth Paste is not only excellent for cleaning teeth. With massage, it helps the gums, too - speeds circulation, helps keep them firmer, healthier."

Wake up lazy gums with Ipana and Massage!



Nothing Exciting Ever Happens

But on this hot July morning an unusual visitor disorganized the whole family

By MAUDE B. RASMUSSEN

T was a hot morning in July. Father was raking hay in the field west of the house. He had been there since early morning. When Robert came in from hoeing sugar beets, and wanted a drink of lemonade, mother thought how thirsty father must be out there in the sun, so she filled a fruit juice bottle with the cool drink and left the house.

Outside she hesitated; should she go out the driveway and along the road, or cut across the garden straight to the west field? Across the garden was shorter, so that decided her, and what an exciting day followed that little decision!

The wet spring had made the grass and clover tall and green under the trees beyond the garden. As mother picked her way to the fence, she noticed a calf lying in the grass, but thought nothing of it at the time. She called to father, who had stopped the horses and was chatting with a neighbor.

As she stood waiting, she was half conscious of the jersey calf, lying there in the grass on the north side of the willow she had just passed. Father and the neighbor, John, came to the fence, joking and chatting. She handed the lemonade over the fence, and wondered vaguely, to herself.

"Who has a jersey calf around here? We keep Holsteins.'

As she looked again, about to ask father, it gradually dawned on her that it was not a calf, but a cougar! She couldn't realize she was really seeing what she saw!

"What is that thing?" she asked the men. Just then it rose and ran off north through the grass and trees.

"It's a wild-cat!" She answered her own question.

Just through a break in the trees, father got a glimpse of its long back and tail, and he called the dog, while mother ran to get the shotgun and the .22 rifle, but by the time she had got the guns out of the rack and got some ammunition, her knees were too weak to run so she gave the guns to Allie, who was hanging out the washing.

Allie ran after her father, saying:

"What are you going to shoot?"

"Wild-cat!"

Father calls skunks "kitties" or "stipped cats" too, so she asked mother, thinking he was joking.

"What is he after?"

"Wild-cat!"

Allie ran to the car; mother, father and little sister, DeAnne all seemed to have the same idea at once. They all wanted to see the show.

The cougar ran out of the short row of trees at the north end, and loped off down the lane towards the highway.

The neighbor watched where it went while they were coming with the guns, and followed it.

Robert, back at the boring task of hoeing weeds (always grumbling that nothing exciting ever happens), was interested in the dog chasing a "stray hound" through the pea field, and took after it with his beet hoe. Its snarl and unfamiliar face sent him hurrying homewards, whistling for father to bring the gun.

By then the cougar had entered the long windbreak bordering the highway. Robert saw the neighbor, and joined him, still clutching the hoe. Together they kept guard.

The four drove up in the car. Father gave the .22 to John, telling him to start north; Robert was to watch the highway to see if the cougar should cross it, while father, in the car with the girls, raced the length of the windbreak to the next intersection to see if it had crossed the road. A neighbor said he had seen nothing. Two men in a car coming along the road had not



Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rasmussen with the cougar shot at Magrath, Alta.

seen it either, so the hunters returned to the windbreak.

Father went into the trees, travelling south, telling the girls to watch as they drove along, mother watching the ground, as she knew what to look for, DeAnne watching the tree tops and Allie at the wheel of the car.

Anxiously they drove along, while the two men crept nearer and nearer through the trees. They met . . . and had not seen the big cat so decided that it must have gone over the highway before they arrived there. About to abandon the chase, John said:

"I'd like to see it again; haven't had so much fun in a long time."

Just then, DeAnne, in the car, screeched:

"There he is! There he is!"

MOTHER gave her famous dinner yodel, which means "Come and get it." Men, boy and dog came racing back to where the car had stopped. They had passed under the big animal, before it was found, and hadn't even noticed it up in the tall poplar tree.

Father took his place with the shotgun, not trusting the efficiency of the small .22. Breathlessly they all looked on while he carefully aimed and pulled the trigger.

"Click" whispered the gun . . . and nothing more. Quickly pumping out the unused shell and reloading, he tried again. "Click." Again the gun had failed! And again and again the high tension was increased by that aggravating

Robert danced wildly, clinging to his beet hoe, first near the trees, then back to the car, uttering strange yelps and squeaks, his face mostly eyes; back again to the road, while the women waited in the car, glad of a safe ringside seat.

The big cougar looked down, opening and closing his fierce-looking mouth, showing his big teeth and tongue, his tail lashing nervously. Father was white by now, partly in anger at the defective firing pin. John wanted to shoot it with the .22 but father forebade him, and worked the firing pin with his fingers. He pumped in another shell, trying again.

"Bang." He hit the mark! The big fellow bounded down, breaking branches as he came and ran, bleeding, back south through the thick trees, the men in close pursuit.

South to the gate again they all raced, only to have to turn around and dash back north, as the cougar seemed reluctant to leave the shelter of the trees. The sharp barking of the dog

Turn to page 59

ONE FAMILY ONE CLUB

Continued from page 9

family data from Martin's sister, Katherine, we passed a hillside field which Martin said wouldn't even grow weeds before the forage crop program was begun. Now it carries a nice crop. Two years ago, fertilizers were combined with the forage crops, and the family club obtained an agency. Last year 12 tons of fertilizers were sold, of which nine tons were purchased by club members.

THE morning we visited the Schaub settlement two young people had left the settlement for Vermilion where one of the Alberta Schools of Agriculture is located. They were going to attend a junior club jamboree at the school. The original grain club formed in 1939 has now been expanded to include a girls' sewing club and a garden club. Two of the club leaders had been at the Olds School of Agriculture the previous week, and two of the club members would be taking in a short course to be held in Athabaska later.

Land clearing has become an important project of the community now. Last year about 250 acres of brush were cut and as soon as the equipment already on order arrives, it was proposed to cut another 200 acres. Each individual will finance his own share of this work, but may need to approach the credit union for the necessary immediate cash. Custom charges for land clearing at the present time run to about \$28 per acre, at the rate of \$8 per acre for brush cutting or breaking, and \$6 for piling or clearing. Of the three-and-a-half sections included in the family holdings, about 50 per cent is cleared acreage. Approximately 10 per cent of the total is waste land, so that nearly 900 acres on the family farms can still be cleared. Each farm family, however, is now planning to establish a 20 to 30-acre woodlot, so that this may reduce the total clearings from now on to around 650 acres.

About 65 per cent of the cultivated land on the nine family farms is now in forage crops. This high proportion,

however, will not be maintained, since it was developed primarily to restore soil fertility. Part of the acreage has also been developed because of the high price of forage crop seed. It is planned to develop a six-year rotation as rapidly as it can be introduced. This will allow for three years of legume crops, followed by one crop of peas and barley, and the remaining two years of wheat, oats or barley as needed. A more efficient combination of grain and forage crops is desirable in order that the proportion of livestock may be maintained at the highest productive level. Up to the present time it has not been possible to raise any substantial number of hogs, owing to lack of sufficient feed. From now on, however, it is ext pected that the number of hogs can be increased gradually.

It is a very significant fact that, next to Mrs. Schaub, Sr., who as Martin said, "has been a great mother to the family," the club has been the mainspring of family progress during the past decade. Granted that Father Loranger inspired the first step toward self-help, and that Messrs. Fontaine and Godel, successive district agriculturists, have advised and assisted, it is to the credit of the seven brothers and two sisters that they have maintained the club in existence, and that from it have sprung the various co-operative and collective efforts mentioned previously. Meetings of the club occur every week still, and are rotated from home to home. Each meeting is in two parts, one for the discussion of business matters which arise from week to week, and the second for the purpose of studying whatever may be under review at the time. The men and women meet in separate rooms, each to discuss their own problems, but if a matter for discussion interests the whole family they get together and talk it over with everybody present. At the conclusion of every meeting there is of course a lunch and, according to Martin, sometimes some entertainment.

So established has this club become that it is planned this fall to build a hall. Lumber for the building was ready to be planed at the time of my visit; and it was expected that a small, portable saw mill could be secured in time to put up the building and complete it for use.

Moving Day This farm house went for a half-mile journey

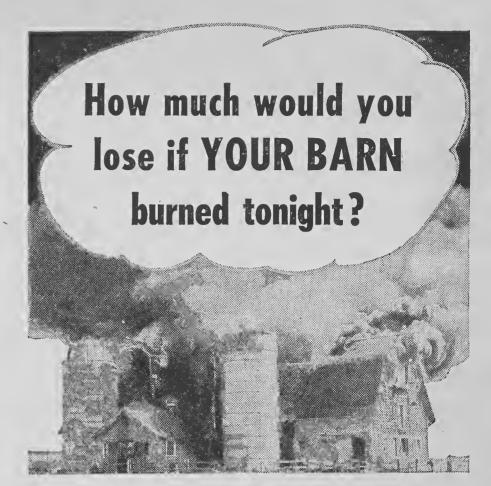
WHEN Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kessler, Newtonville, Ontario, said that they were moving, they meant it literally. The house was separated from its foundations, hoisted on foot-square timbers. Just within each corner a double set of hardwood rollers on heavy steel axles spread the weight when moved. Under the capable direction of Robert Waddell and his gang, the house was jockeyed into position for its half-mile or so trip through a yard, across a road, over a ditch, up a steep hill, over wire fences, and fields, until it came to rest on

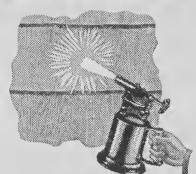
the prepared foundation on the crest of the hill.

The motive power was a winch and heavy steel cable mounted on the back of a four-wheel drive army truck belonging to an Air Force veteran, Ronnie Burley. To hold the whole outfit from sliding back, a tractor, also belonging to Mr. Burley, was fastened ahead of the truck and wedged by timbers. The men worked long and hard to bring the house to an even keel each of its three nights, although Mrs. Kessler used the stove while the business was in progress.—Christina Robb Caswell.



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This Feature is furnished monthly by United Grain Growers Limited Month

Domestic Flour and Bread Prices Up

Flour and mill feed prices for consumption in Canada went up sharply on September 15th when the government abolished the consumers' subsidy it had formerly paid on wheat milled for domestic use. Bread prices were at once advanced. The change meant a saving of approximately \$40,-000,000 a year to the treasury of Canada, which amount had previously been paid out every year in order to keep down the cost of bread in Canada. The only benefit of the change was to the government. Nothing was added to the immediate or prospective income of wheat producers. Their wheat was already being sold to the millers through the Canadian Wheat Board on the basis of \$1.55. Millers, however, under price ceiling regulations, had been compelled to sell flour and mill feeds on the basis of 77% cents per bushel. The difference between that amount and what millers actually had to pay for wheat was made up to them by the Dominion government. This was sometimes referred to as a "millers' subsidy," but actually it was a subsidy to consumers even although in the first instance it was paid to the millers. These were compelled, by price ceiling regulations, to pass the benefit on to their customers. Some subsidy to consumers of flour had been in effect almost since price controls were first put on in 1941. At that time ceilings were established for practically all products on the basis of the higher price which had been in effect during a thirty-day period in September and October, 1941. The highest wheat price in that base period had been 77% cents per bushel and until September 15th flour and mill feed prices had to correspond. No ceiling was placed, at that time, on wheat prices and when these began to rise the government found it necessary, unless flour and bread prices were to go up, to pay the millers the difference between 77% cents per bushel and whatever the wheat might actually cost them.

Until early this year the Wheat Board was directed by the government to provide wheat for domestic consumption in Canada on the basis of \$1.25 per bushel. At first that was not unreasonable, because for a time it represented the price at which wheat was actually selling for export. By 1946 export prices were substantially higher. In August, 1946, the British wheat contract came into effect, under which Great Britain paid for wheat on the basis of \$1.55 per bushel, while sales to other countries were made at progressively higher prices, up to and exceeding \$2.50 per bushel. Flour consumers were thus getting two subsidies. One was at the expense of the wheat producers of Canada who were compelled to provide wheat at \$1.25 per bushel, while export prices were at much higher levels. The other was at the expense of the Dominion government. In response to complaints of producers government, in the spring of 1947, advanced the domestic price basis from \$1.25 to \$1.55 per bushel. While that made no immediate difference to the income of wheat farmers, it did increase the prospects for payment on participation certificates. When the government took that step, without making any immediate change in the ceiling price on flour, it meant that the cost to the government of the consumers' subsidy was increased by twelve and one-half million dollars per year.

As long as price controls continued on articles and commodities bought

by farmers there was a good deal of justification for continuing restrictions on what farmers might attain for wheat to be used in Canada. Now, however, it will become a matter of active controversy as to what the domestic price of wheat should be. The Wheat Board Act, as passed by parliament, gives no guidance in this respect. It is open to the government, as it pleases, to instruct the Wheat Board in this respect.

Western farmers generally have so far been inclined to accept \$1.55 as a reasonable domestic level. In the first place it is 30 cents per bushel more than the previous level, and in the second place it corresponds with the present British export price. Moreover, most of them did not expect more so long as the taxpayers generally were providing part of the cost of subsidizing flour and until after consumers had got used to some advance in bread prices. Now, however, they will point out to the government that Britain obtained the \$1.55 price only by making some commitments for future years, and there is no commitment for the future in respect to wheat consumed domestically. If, as seems likely, the contract price for the third year of the British agreement is fixed at a level higher than \$1.55, a further rise in the domestic price level would seem inevitable. The extent of farmers' demands in this respect will probably be governed by the behavior of the general price level now that most controls have disappeared or are disappearing.

Ceilings on Coarse Grains in Question

Price ceilings on a long list of commodities were removed by government action on September 15th. Ceilings, however, were retained on meat and on coarse grains. This was contrary to expectation, as the belief had been widespread that, as the de-control process continued, the ceilings on meat would go, and along with them both the ceilings on feed grains and the subsidies of 10 cents per bushel on oats and 25 cents per bushel on barley now paid when those grains are bought for feed.

There was general belief that if ceilings should be removed from oats and barley these grains would advance considerably in price. The advance would be limited by what the Canadian consumer could afford to pay for meat, and what, in relation to new prices, the feeder could afford to pay for coarse grains. There was no prospect that Canadian prices for oats and barley would rise to correspond with levels prevailing in the United States because the export of those grains would remain under continuing government control. In fact, on September 15th, the Canadian Wheat Board announced that no exports of oats and barley, except in very special cases, would be allowed during the crop year.

September 15th would have an awkward moment to remove ceilings on meat and feed grains because at that time there was in progress a strike tying up almost all the packing plants in Canada. That strike threatened to bring about throughout Canada a great scarcity of meat and concurrently to impose great hardship on farmers who would not be able to sell hogs and cattle ready for market. Feeders in eastern Canada would have raised an outcry if at that particular moment they were to lose the subsidies on feed grains and at the same time have to pay higher prices that would have been in prospect.

Commentary

Under other circumstances removal of ceilings on meat and feed grains would probably have come about earlier, instead of later, than September 15th. The logical time for such a change would have been as early as possible in the present crop year, when supplies of old grain were at a minimum and before the new crop had begun to move. Delay was caused, in the first instance, because of the very poor prospects this year for feed grain production in eastern Canada and, secondly, when it became evident that grain yields in western Canada would be disappointingly low.

The government is left with a serious problem in deciding when price changes will be authorized on meats and coarse grains. No long continuation of ceilings is to be expected unless there is a marked reversal in government policy. That policy is quite evidently directed toward the removal of price controls as rapidly as possible. In fact, when the recent announcement was made removing most of the remaining controls, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board stated that further steps in this direction were to be expected before long. It would be impossible to predict government action far in advance since various factors in the over-all economic picture are constantly changing. There has been a good deal of complaint about the increase in cost of living and much of it is focused on the recent advance in bread prices. Such increases tend to strengthen the demands for wage increases and to increase the danger of further strikes.

Farmers in eastern Canada, some months ago, urged the government to maintain the present price structure and subsidies on coarse grains throughout the current crop year. No doubt they will continue such requests unless it becomes evident to them that without some increase in price they will not be able to get adequate supplies out of western Canada this year.

Before many months the seeding program for 1948 will be under discussion. It will then be argued that farmers will have to have the hope of higher prices for the 1948 crop if the acreage in oats and barley is to be maintained. Otherwise, higher returns for wheat than formerly expected would tend towards an increase in wheat acreage at the expense of other grains. Such a prospect, if it were held out, would probably tend to delay marketings of oats and barley.

Wheat Payments To Be Increased

According to announcement recently made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Hon. Mr. MacKinnon, parliament will be asked at the next session to authorize an increase in the initial Wheat Board payment for wheat now based on \$1.35 per bushel. That will apply to the crops of 1948 and 1949. An interim payment will then be made on wheat deliveries from the crops of 1945, 1946 and 1947, representing the difference between \$1.35 per bushel and whatever new level is authorized by parliament. Various cases have been made as to what the advance may amount to. It will be surprising if it is much less than 15 cents per bushel, which would bring the initial payment up to \$1.50 per bushel for the pool period of five years now applicable to western wheat. It will be greatly surprising if the amount of increase much exceeds 20 cents per bushel, which would make the initial payment basis \$1.55 per bushel.

When the present wheat policy was put into effect in the summer of 1946, and an initial payment of \$1.35 per bushel was established for a five-year period, it was provided that settlement on participation certificates issued against deliveries for the five years would be settled for, if there should be any surplus, sometime after July 31st, 1950. Nothing was said about an interim payment either when the policy was announced or when amendments to the Wheat Board Act were passed at the last session of parliament, to put the new policy into effect. In fact, there was at first little expectation that there would be any surplus to distribute. Instead, the general belief was that such surpluses as might accumulate during the first part of the period would be required to protect the government against loss during the latter part of the period covered by the wheat policy. Wheat prices, however, have not declined, as seemed to be expected both by Canadian and British negotiators when the British wheat agreement was signed. Instead there has been a great advance in world wheat prices. That has meant realization of a very considerable profit in the hands of the Wheat Board on wheat sold to countries other than Great Britain. In addition, it seems highly probable that high prices will continue at least for the crop of 1948. Instead of realizing \$1.25 per bushel, the minimum price stipulated in the contract, it now seems highly likely that the 140 million bushels of wheat to be sold to Great Britain during 1948-1949 will bring a much higher price, possibly \$2.00 per bushel.

Although no official statement has been made it is frequently calculated that the Wheat Board must now have in hand as surplus from the crops of 1945 and 1946 more than 150 million dollars and that by July 31st, 1948, such surplus may amount to close to 200 million dollars. That, in view of present market prospects, is a much larger amount than the government needs to hold back against any possible losses during the next two crop years. Consequently the government has decided that a large part of this amount is to be paid out during the calendar year 1948. Mr. MacKinnon has not suggested what amount per bushel may be paid out. Indeed, all official calculations in that respect will probably be postponed until after agreement has been reached with Great Britain on the 1948-1949 price.

Whatever interim payment is made will not be out of government funds nor will it represent any generosity on the part of the government. The money in question already belongs to producers. Making the payment simply means that the government no longer feels it necessary to hold back such a large amount for protection against possible future losses.

The Canadian Wheat Board is now in process of paying out more than 60 million dollars on participation certificates issued for the crop of 1944. That is the last year for which separate settlement is made. Commencing with the crop of 1945-1946 returns for the crops of five years are being pooled, and participation certificates for each of the five years will have equal value. When there is added to the 60 million dollars now going out to producers the distribution in prospect as interim payment of perhaps 150 million dollars, it will be seen that wheat producers, during the next 12 months or so, can expect to receive 200 million dollars or more in addition to the proceeds of their current crop as delivered. Receipt of that revenue will come at a very opportune time, supplementing, as it Turn to page 53



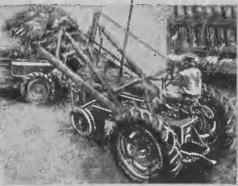
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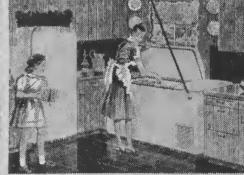
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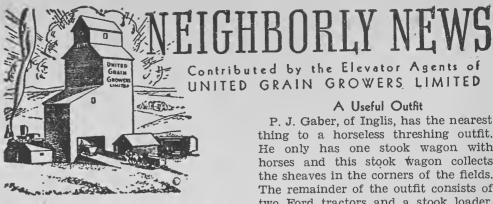
that I'm thankful for: upon the tractor seat I ride and take the weather in my stride because however bad the storm my COMFORT COVER keeps me warm by keeping all the engine heat up around the driver's seat—and what it cost it soon repays by saving many working days.

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A Fine Hard of Purebreds

W. Andreshak and son, Peter, are proud owners of a fine herd of purebred Hereford cattle considered one of the best in northern Alberta.

Mr. Andreshak attended the Calgary bull sale early in the year and brought back one of the prize winning bulls of that sale.—Elk. Point, Alta.

Sets All-Time Record

When John Gough of Carstairs attended Crescent Heights high school a few years ago, few people thought he would one day rise to rate among top track stars in the United States. Lanky John is attending Oklahoma University. In a recent National A.A.U. meet, Gough made a leap of 45 feet six inches on a bruised heel, to set a new all-time University of Oklahoma record in the "Hop-Step and Jump."

Gough also set a new provincial mark in the Hop-Step and Jump three years ago.

Blisters, But No Complaints

Work is under way on the new Memorial hockey arena. The volunteer help certainly demonstrated their ability to handle a pick and shovel. While there might have been a few blisters there were no complaints.

The building committee expects to have the arena completed by the time skating and hockey start.—Carstairs,

Work and Play

Quite a number of farmers are experimenting these days with the sowing of fall rye and winter wheat, chiefly as a means of helping to combat the weed problem, particularly the yellow mustard.—Morrin, Alta.

A Fine Community Effort

The new curling rink in Carseland is a fine tribute to community effort.

The structure is 180 by 32 feet and required 375 bundles of shingles, all nailed on by voluntary help. This was no small undertaking at a time when all farmers were busy harvesting.

The money for lumber was raised by subscription, and there are sufficient funds on hand to pay for completion of the rink. The curling rink board expect to have the rink in operation this winter.-Carseland, Alta.

A True Fishing Yarn

Prizes were presented at a recent banquet and dance by the Crossfield branch of the "Fish and Game League," for the largest fish caught this year in the Dog Pond Creek, R. B. Stillings (U.G.G. agent in Crossfield) and Dewy Casey, of Wessex, tied for first, resulting in a flip of the coin, after which Mr. Stillings won first—a silver cup donated by Mr. Chas. Bowen, and Mr. Casey won second—a sports jacket donated by Mr. Steven.-Wessex, Alta.

Four Score—and Six More

William Todd, of McCreary, celebrated his 86th birthday recently and received many congratulations on reaching a grand old age.

Mr. Todd pioneered in Manitoba in the opening up of the province, farming in the early days at Norgate and later at Newdale. Since he retired from farming he has lived in McCreary.-McCreary, Man.

A Useful Outfit

P. J. Gaber, of Inglis, has the nearest thing to a horseless threshing outfit. He only has one stook wagon with horses and this stook wagon collects the sheaves in the corners of the fields. The remainder of the outfit consists of two Ford tractors and a stook loader, one tractor hauls the stooks and the other loads the loader. Mr. Gaber has a 28-inch machine and has no trouble in keeping the separator in sheaves.—

First New Grain Delivered

To Roy Gale goes the honor of being the first farmer in the district to deliver 1947 grown grain to a Didsbury elevator. The grain was barley of a good grade and was sold as malting barley.

Mr. Gale has since brought in a number of loads of barley which are being consigned to the U.G.G. elevator.

Wins \$200 Scholarship

Among the 200 high school students in Alberta receiving \$200 scholarships of the Department of Education, in an effort to relieve the teacher shortage in the province, was Marion May Eby, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Eby, who attended Didsbury high school last

Teacher Receives 10c Per Day Per Pupil!

In a letter received by Theo. Reist from Ephraim Weber of Saskatoon, the first school teacher in Didsbury and brother of Mr. M. Weber, proprietor of the Rosebud Flour Mill, the following interesting facts are related:

"Yes, I was the first school teacher in the Didsbury settlement. I was given the north end of the Immigrant Shed, a Dominion government building, to set up equipment and start. I taught the public school course which was quite satisfactory to the parents.

"My salary was 10 cents per pupil per day, providing the pupil was present. Not all parents could pay completely in cash; one made up his shortcoming by letting me have his little half-window sash for my homestead shack, and his spare grindstone. Those were the glorious days when everybody had almost no money and needed almost none, though some of us imagined we needed cash and hoped for the best as we told the world the happiness of simple life." —Didsbury, Alta.

Rye and Flax Increase

Rye and flax acreage is steadily increasing on surrounding farms. Once a district where these were practically nil, there are now approximately 300 acres of rye, and 100 acres of flax with an increased outlook for next year.-Prevo, Alta.

Build Recreational Centre

Volunteer laborers from Gleichen town and district have been busy during the summer building a recreational centre to be dedicated as a War Memorial. The fully modern building houses three sheets of ice for curling in the winter, and bowling in the summer. Carnivals and other sporting events will also be staged here. The progress made is a fine result of voluntary efforts made.—Gleichen, Alta.

Good Rye Yields

, Messrs. Cochrane and Andrews made good on 27 acres of rye this season. One field of seven acres yielded 278 bushels, another of 20 acres yielded 440 bushels. This rye netted an average of \$3.00 per bushel and was marketed through the local U.G.G. Ltd. elevator. -Silverton, Man.

Canada Looks Good to Him

Peter K. Sawatzky, who was once the manager of a grocery department of a state-operated store in Russia, says, "Canada is my country because freedom is what the world needs."

Since coming to Canada 20 years ago, Mr. Sawatzky hasn't done too badly by himself. Today he operates an implement business in Main Centre and also has an agency at nearby Herbert.*

In 1940 he became agent of the United Grain Growers and an implement firm at Main Centre. He held these positions for five years until he opened his own implement shop with a second agency in Herbert. — Main Centre, Sask.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

Continued from page 51

will, receipt from the disappointingly small crop of 1947.

No attempt should be made by any producer to claim the interim payment in prospect until after the Wheat Board announces, sometime in 1948, that it is ready to proceed. As the law now stands, the Wheat Board has no power to pay to producers anything except the initial payment. Without the amendment to the Wheat Board Act which the Hon. Mr. MacKinnon has undertaken to introduce at the next session of parliament, all further distribution would have to be delayed until sometime after 1950.

Possible Additional Payment on Flaxseed

Some additional payment on flaxseed may be in prospect for western producers at the close of the current crop year. The Canadian Wheat Board announces that any net profits arising from the operations of the Board in respect of flaxseed during the 1947-1948 crop year will be distributed to

producers. For several years past flaxseed has been handled on a basis differing entirely from other grains. It has been bought outright from farmers for account of the government of Canada on a fixed price basis. The government resold the flax it bought. On that portion which was sold to Canadian crushers a loss was experienced because the price was kept down to a level which enabled linseed oil and oil cake to be sold at ceiling prices. Some surplus over Canadian requirements was available each year and this was resold in the United States, yielding a profit, which, however, only partly offset the loss experienced on Canadian transactions. When the fixed price basis for the current crop year was established at \$5.00 per bushel a considerable increase in flax acreage was brought about, with a substantial increase in production. That gives a larger surplus than before for export, at a profit, from Canada. Instead of reselling the surplus directly to the United States, as was formerly done, export permits for both flaxseed and for linseed oil are now available, and for these an equalization fee varying from day to day is established, just as has long been the case with oats and barley. Prices to Canadian crushers, and the price of linseed oil have been advanced so there is no longer a loss on Canadian operations to be absorbed. Under these conditions the surplus flax and linseed oil exported may result in a profit accruing from the Wheat Board handling of flax, the amount of which will be known only at the close of the crop year.

While flax producers do not receive a participation certificate at time of delivery, all elevator companies are keeping a record of deliveries, on which record it will be possible to pay out whatever surplus actually accrues. A statement about

HOUSEHOLD HEATING OILS

The demand for petroleum products throughout the world is today much greater than at any time in history. In Canada, for instance, consumption of heating oils has doubled since 1945, the year of peak war requirements.

To help meet this unprecedented Canadian demand Imperial Oil has provided an unprecedented supply. However, the demand for heating oils used in range burners, space heaters, water heaters and household furnaces continues to increase at a rapid rate, while our most strenuous efforts to expand refining and storage capacity and other facilities are being hampered by lack of construction materials.

This means that the margin between the supply of and the demand for heating oils is very narrow and may approach a critical point this winter if people continue to purchase oilburning units without first assuring themselves of an adequate supply. As a protection to the public we would advise that:

Before purchase of a range burner, space heater or any household oil-burning equipment, make certain you are assured of a continuing supply of fuel. Early this year, in order to protect our existing customers we notified our entire sales organization, including dealers and agents, that we could not take on any new heating oil customers.

Imperial Oil's replacement and construction program, delayed when materials and labor were needed for war production, is being pressed as rapidly as possible. When completed it will restore our traditional margin of supply over demand so that all requirements will be met. In the meantime every effort is being made to increase available supplies.

Any commitments we have made to supply household heating oils have been carefully considered and we can assure our customers that, barring unforseen circumstances these commitments will all be met.



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Undson's Bay Company. INCORPORATED 2nd MAY, 1670

THUNDER FROM THE SOUTH

Continued from page 5

Miranda's technique. Stocks at Antwerp were alarmingly low. Wheat from the northern hemisphere could not be obtained until this year's new crop came in. In no place but Argentina could the Belgians hope to secure their wants in time. Peron and Company used their bargaining advantage so ruthlessly that the Belgians finally complained that "the Argentine government had gripped Belgium by the throat to wring an exorbitant price out of her."

THE other sharp prong in the government's fork is the Institute for the Promotion of Trade. It is controlled by Rolando Largomarsino, Minister of Trade and Commerce, a former night club playboy whose appointment is laid to an early friendship with Senora Peron. The Institute controls exports and imports, and in the movement of Argentina's agricultural staples is the only buyer in the field.

Its operations can be readily understood in western Canada by an account of Argentina's present course in wheat trading. The Argentine grain farmer has been selling his wheat to the government agency for \$1.38 per bushel for the first 331 tons, and \$1.22 for wheat in excess of that amount. At the time of this writer's advice this wheat was being sold abroad for \$2.84, but has sold as high as \$3.56. The difference does not go, as in Canada, into a fund from which the farmer may draw future payments, but into the capacious pockets of the Peron crowd, which has an ambitious program to finance. What is true of wheat is equally true of corn, hides, vegetable oils and other products.

The operations of the Institute have provoked bitter denunciation from the farmers and from other South American countries dependent on Argentina for food stuffs. But Peron is now strong enough to give an arrogant brush-off to the former and cold snubs to the others. One does not have to add that a government pursuing such a policy in the marketing of its agricultural surpluses cannot be expected to enter into any genuine wheat agreement based on world needs.

Many of these developments occurred with only a casual stir in international circles, but the announcement of the Argentine five-year plan focused world attention on Peron's budding empire. It became clear for the first time that the Lider was laying the groundwork to establish a power capable of competing with the United States for New World leadership. Russians say that Peron copied his five-year plan from Stalin. Argentinians retort that it is their version of Roosevelt's New Deal. The most cursory examination will show the absurdity of this latter claim.

The five-year plan has two aspects, the politico-economic and the military. The civil program involves the staggering expenditure of \$1,660,000,000. The military budget is secret but in a country which is already spending 46 per cent of its peacetime income on its armed forces, it is certain to be equally lavish.

On the civil side, the money will be spent for economic development, cultural control, and the tight centralization of the government structure. Almost half the projected outlay will be for communications which have a strategic import. The plan includes everything else from folk dancing to hydro electric dams, compulsory Catholic religious instruction, social welfare, votes for women, and the intensive exploration and mining of strategic minerals. Peron is preparing his people for greatness.

The Act which legalized the five-year plan empowers the Lider to increase customs duties now existing up to 100 per cent and to impose up to 25 per cent duty on articles now admitted free. He may fix import quotas. He may guarantee local industries returns up to eight per cent. He is given control of stocks of raw and semi-processed materials. So complete is Peron's ascendancy over his legislature that the Act on which these powers rest was passed in 20 minutes.

For the intensive job of carrying out the industrialization and re-arming of his country, Peron warns the people that it is necessary to develop "warlike virtues." Youngsters of 12 to 20 are now subject to "pre-conscription training" reminiscent of the Hitler youth. The period of service with the colors is increased to three years. The army is German-trained; the Navy schooled by British sailors; the education of the Air Force has been entrusted to American fliers. Every man remains a reservist till the age of 45. Under a national registration scheme every person in the country, regardless of age or sex, must enroll. No country except Germany and Japan ever increased its military effectiveness in peacetime at the pace Argentina is now doing.

NOR are these merely parade soldiers. The Lider is quite aware of their value on the diplomatic chess board. Outlining his conception of diplomatic action in a famous speech during the war at the University of La Plata, he said: "Diplomacy should be exercised in the same way in which a campaign is carried out in war time. It has its own forces and arms, and can wage its own battles if necessary to attain objectives dictated by policy. If the objective can be obtained by diplomacy, then the task is lessened and the matter rests. But if diplomacy is not sufficient to obtain the particular objective, then steps must be taken to achieve them by force—naturally taking into consideration that this is the most extreme step."

By way of illustration he cited at admiring length the Nazi diplomatic technique from 1933 to 1939 culminating in the Nazi-Soviet pact, and pointed out that political maneuvering and diplomacy played an important part in preparing for the military conquest which even then seemed to be possible for Germany.

The diplomatic relations between Argentina and her neighbors since VE Day illustrates Peron's faithfulness to his ideal. One by one his Latin neighbors, beginning with the weakest, have been enmeshed in a web of loans, trade agreements and commodity deals. Once their economies have become tied to that of Argentina, political independence is not likely to lag far behind.

Paraguay was the first and easiest conquest. Her only access to the outside world is by the Parana River, whose lower reaches flow between Argentine bank's. Peron's forces control and can stop at a moment's notice any and all traffic, including indispensable food supplies. On one occasion last February immigrants bound for Paraguay were arbitrarily diverted and settled in Argentine territory.

One of the most developed South American countries, Chile was also one of the hardest hit by trade dislocation arising out of the World War. At its conclusion, Chile was badly in need of credits. Argentina obliged to the tune of \$175,000,000. The price - minerals which Argentina badly needs; the completion of strategic trans-Andean railways; the declaration of Valparaiso, Chile's largest seaport, and her national capital, as a free port for Argentina. What a cuckoo's nest that would make!

Bolivia was a tougher opponent-for a little while. Her president, Villaroel.



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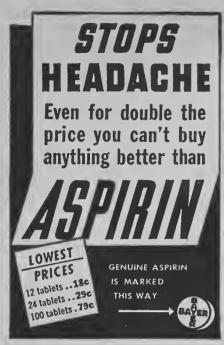
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was a close friend of Peron. The Bolivians hanged him to a lamp post. With skillful finesse, Peron shifted from the tactics of Goebbels to the tactics of Schacht. The Bolivians live by the export of tin, largely to the United States. They were holding out for a price of 76 cents a pound. The best Yankee offer was 67 cents, for the Americans were beginning to eye Holland's reviving tin mines in the Far East. Let's not haggle about price, said Peron, and Bolivian tin is now moving at the rate of 8,000 tons a year for five years to the Argentine, where there is no smelter to handle it. What will Peron do with it? If the Americans are disappointed in the East, there is a possibility that the Lider will obligingly sell his supplies to them, thereby gaining Bolivian goodwill and making the Americans pay for it.

On another occasion when the Bolivians were a little recalcitrant, the Argentinians suddenly discovered that the freight cars carrying essential wheat supplies to Bolivia were unsafe, and the traffic was suddenly and completely halted until the dismayed Bolivians became more amenable to argument. During the same time Argentine wheat passing through Bolivia on its way to Chile was allowed to go forward in identically "unsafe" cars.

"Theme with variations" describes Peron's treatment of all neighboring states. Each success is followed by penetration further afield. Everywhere the same ruthless pressure to make every ton of supplies yield the last centavo in economic and political profit. Observers ask if it will last five years. As long as the world presents a seller's market Argentina can continue to wring concessions out of those who cannot do without her foodstuffs. What will happen when buyers are no longer under the whip of scarcity? Peron can make hay while the bear growls. What will happen when the United Nations are freed from their present pre-occupation with Russia?

Meanwhile internal pressures are mounting. Agriculture is in a surly mood. The business community is in a state of despair, as it must always be when government is by decree and no day knows what the morrow bringeth. As in Germany, the new regime is breeding enemies. They are quiet now, for Peron's federal police chief, Filomeno Velasco, the administration's "tough guy," is building up an effective police force complete with mounted squads, shock troops, "social" or thought control police, and all the paraphernalia which made Himmler unassailable. It has been estimated that Buenos Aires now has a police force larger than that of New York City.

Latin American dictators perennially rise and fall of their own weight. It may turn out so in Peron's case. But few have buttressed themselves so well in so short a space of time. At worst he may do incalculable harm to international relations. At best he will set back a generation the good neighbor policy enunciated by America's great president, Franklin D. Roosevelt.



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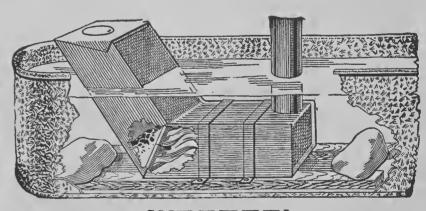
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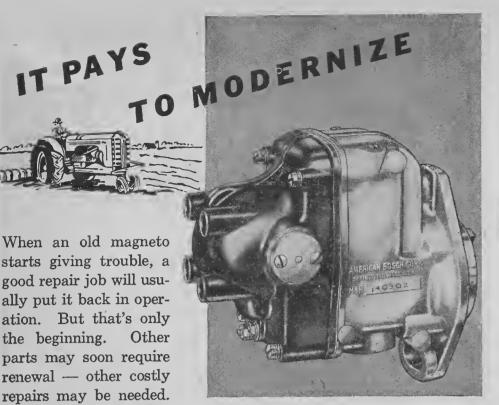
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SPURS

Continued from page 7

the Little Mutau, Swifty and his one brother, trained with only a small portion of the skill their mother, unmolested, would have taught them, attempted to hunt and continue to live. It was more difficult now, with the cold coming on. Their mother had left them long before. Birds had gone south or down to the low, warmer country; game was scant, wily, and hard to find.

After two futile days Swifty turned his head down from the Little Mutau toward the valleys. For half a night the young, three-quarter grown fox travelled down. He was tired; his underfed, thin body cried for food.

Then on the valley breeze came the scent of pungent ripe meat, mingled with something else, a musky lovely odor that Swifty had never smelled. He quivered with eagerness. His nose in the wind, he hurried toward the feast. He did not pause as he came close; his instinctive caution was deadened, blanketed in his eagerness.

Something dropped slightly under one of his forepaws. The *click* of metal snapped. . . . Long after, after he had exhausted himself in mad struggling, Swifty crouched back and looked at his forepaw and the steel jaws of the trap clamped onto it.

"What you got in the bag?" the Kid asked interestedly, as old Dad Wilkins came riding a gentle old mare up to the Circle Z bunkhouse.

"Wall, now, Kid; what yo' guess, huh?" Dad Wilkins swung out of the saddle and put the bag on the ground. Something alive moved within it.

"Don't know," said the Kid. "What?"

"A little kit grey fox. Yeah. Caught in that-there coyote trap I had set upvalley. Pore little feller, I felt sorry for him when I see him, so I brung him home alive. . . . Yeah, an' I'll be danged if there, off about twenty yards, as I rid up, wasn't a big, yeller-grey coyote sittin' on his haunches an' watchin' the little feller." Old Dad Wilkins paused.

"Didja get him?" asked the Kid. "Th' coyote, I mean."

"Naw. Shot twice, but I reckon I missed both cracks."

"Too bad," said the Kid, sympathetically. "What yuh goin' to do with the fox?",

"Aw, give 'im to you, maybe. You want 'im, huh?"

"You bet!"

"All right. Make some sort of a cage for him 'fore you let him out th' bag."

Despite the fact that the Kid wore a man's high-heeled riding boots, had a first-rate "kack" and chaps hung up in the saddle-room, and could swear better than old Dad Wilkins himself, he was still just a kid, fourteen, going on fifteen in the spring. The little kit grey fox interested him a lot, since it was his own. He let it out of the gunnysack into the old chicken pen and watched it cower into the far corner of the wires. Then, understanding, he got a box and darkened it with an old saddle blanket, so that the little fox could hide away. He stole a big chunk of fresh beef from the cook and put it and water in the pen.

THE next morning he was delighted to see that the little fox had eaten. Under the dark of the box Swifty's little beady eyes watched the Kid come and go. Since Swifty had been hungry enough to eat anything, and in the black of the first night of his captivity had sunk his jaws into the beef tainted by human hands and found it good, he ate more.

The Kid, with an understanding of the wild little thing he held captive, would not allow anyone to go near the pen, and the men, laughing, obeyed.

The Kid's attention was divided between the horse Saunders had given him and the fox. He had "a way with critters, too," as Dad Wilkins expressed it. That was a good sign. The Kid had turned into something of a protege of the old man's. There were hours through the winter when he turned to teaching the Kid the intricacies of the reata—how to flip the noose out in the corral with one short motion; mounted, how to get the swing of it and send it far in an open cast.

"Be careful of your fingers," the old man would say. "Take yore 'dallies' on the saddle horn so—no fingers stickin' out."

Much the old man taught the Kid in the idleness of the winter snows. Dad Wilkins was tending his coyote traps and gentling two colts in the corrals. The Kid helped Dad Wilkins with them.

"Wall, Kid," the old man said one afternoon, as they left the colts, "I reckon yo'll be ridin' 'fore so very long." The Kid's eyes lighted. "Yeah, 'fore so very long. Kid, do you know how a rider more or less won his spurs in the days when I was a kid?"

"No." The Kid shook his head.

'Wall, he proved his-self with a lasso. Ridin' th' bad-uns of course was another way, but th' rope is th' thing what makes a cowhand valuable. Th' boys is expected to ride their string, but th' top hand is the feller what can really lasso. Understand? A bronctwister's a bronc-twister, but th' real cowhand is th' one what knows stock, has an eye an' a way with it, an' can handle his lasso. Understand, Kid?"

"Yes-sir, Dad."

"As I started to say," the old man rumbled on: "When I was a lad a feller won his spurs by the reata. I've known riders to lasso a buck deer. That's luck. But listen, Kid; a crack hoss will run down a coyote, given th' right start. Th' hoss'll do it in 500 yards, or not at all—see? An' a coyote can dodge, an' zig-zag, an' double like nothin' else but a jack rabbit, or maybe a streak of chain lightnin'. In my day, Kid, when a youngster lassoed his fu'st coyote he won his spurs."

The Kid said nothing to that, but his eyes had a dreamy far-away look in them. At early dusk he saddled and rode formally up to see Saunders, although pay-day had passed a scant week before.

"Boss," he said, "come spring, it seems to me I oughta have my ridin' job?"

SAUNDERS realized that somehow this occasion was different from those that had gone before. "Kid, to tell th' truth, they's too many tops hands wantin' jobs," he confessed. "Spring'll see a dozen riders driftin' in as usual, all A-number-1 cowmen, an' each wantin' work. Another thing, Kid: You ain't big enough or strong enough yet to stand th' gaff. I ain't sayin', mind you, that you ain't been learnin' fast an' doin' mighty well, but then, Kid, you ain't no top hand. Sure you know that... Tell you, Kid, you wait until yo're eighteen or nineteen, say, an' then—"

Eighteen or nineteen! It might have been a thousand years to the Kid.

"Hell, boss!" The Kid felt his eyes getting blurry. "Hell, boss; that's a long time—"

"Three, four years. Not so much in a life-time."

There was a long pause.

"S'pose'n, boss, I was to win my spurs, come spring?"

"Spurs! Ain't I already give you my old ones?"

"Yeah. But not like that. S'pose'n, say, I was to lasso a coyote in th' open? S'pose'n, say, I was hand enough with a rope to do that?"

Saunders looked at him for a long time

"What d'you say, boss? S'pose'n I can do that?"

Saunders waited for a long time before he said gruffly, "All right. All right.

Win yore spurs, like you say, an' you got th' job. Mind, though,"—he glared —"that you ain't out from mornin' to night tryin' to do it. See?"

"Yes-sir, boss."

"Yo're a little fool!" Saunders exploded after him. "I mean what I say—you go neglectin' the cook an I'll can you off the Circle Z sure. Hear?"

"Yes-sir, boss."

The Kid floated out of the room to mount the gentle old horse and ride, buoyant on air, down the hundred yards back to the corrals.

He told the cook about it, when he couldn't hold it to himself any longer. "Yah? Yah?" the cook said. "Dahm fool, you! Me, I like nice warm kitchen, yah."

The Kid had to talk to somebody about it, and after supper, since old Dad Wilkins had followed Saunders up to the house, he turned toward Swifty's pen.

He stopped before he came to it. Back and forth, back and forth, he could see Swifty run.

The Kid watched him for a long time, thinking to himself. Then he went close, and Swifty crouched back into the box.

"Little fox," the Kid said, "what yo' runnin' like that for, huh? Back an' forth. Say, little feller, yo' want to git out in th' moonlight?" A new thought came into the Kid's mind. "Say, little fox, is this-here pen like a kitchen to you, huh? Back an' forth. An' me like a cook, say, allus keepin' you in when th' wind's blowin' free out across th' valley, an' cows is a-bawlin' out somewhere 'long th' crick willers? Say, little fox—"

The Kid was silent, and after a while he went back up to the darkened bunkhouse. The cook had a chunk of sirloin hung up in the room to thaw out so that it would be ready for morning's breakfast. The Kid took the chunk without scruple and went back to Swifty's per

"Here, little feller, take this. An' say, if you ever git hungry come back. From time to time I'll put a little chunk in yore box there, where nobody'll see it, an' it's for you. So-long, little feller." The Kid paused. "Say, ol' Saunders has me a ridin' job promised, come spring." The Kid told Swifty all about it.

He left the gate open, and after a while he saw a shadow move swiftly off across the snow-patched foreground, fading away. The shadow held its head high, a big chunk of sirloin in its jaws.

"So-long," the Kid breathed. "See you ag'in sometime maybe—out there. Come back if yo're hungry. . . ."

Twice before spring had really come the meat that the Kid religiously left n the box was gone.

"Good little ol' feller," the Kid said.
"See you next winter, huh? Reckon you know what's what."

The Kid told the men, now coming in force back to the bunkhouse, a different story. "Yeah, little ol' fox got away. I musta been right careless to fergit an' leave th' gate open like that."

Old Dad Wilkins even gave him a forceful lecture about carelessness. The Kid had become an out-and-out pupil of the old man's, like the two colts in the corral. "When I teach my hand to a man," he said, "it's like a colt. I nake a top hand out of 'em, like I make top hosses. See? . . . But Kid,"—ne turned—"I cain't make no top hand out of a keerless, flighty, fergitful—" And so, on and on.

"Ol' man's gittin' a might childish," Knotty Tolton referred to him in private.

SPRING came. Little patches of grass cropped out along the bottoms; then a level verdant carpet clothed the valley. At first there was much riding to do, for the cattle that had wintered on the dry grass and browse fell eager-

ly to lapping up the thin-stemmed green stuff. Many bawling calves frisked at their mother's sides; the bulls lowed in deep-toned bass across the flower-spotted valleys and bottoms.

A month of green feed ripened into a second, and Saunders, judging the condition, the flesh and strength of the cattle with a trained eye, began preparations for the spring round-up. As he had predicted, men rode almost daily into the ranch and asked for jobs. Saunders hired three for the coming ride, and the Kid, watching, became frenzied. He said nothing; he merely watched. Not even to old Dad Wilkins did he tell his thoughts. Despite Saunders' words, with no thought to them, he neglected everything for the old cutting horse at the corral and the reata Dad Wilkins had given him. The cook complained, and Knotty Tolton caught one of the new men in the act of giving the Kid a first-rate, and as the rider judged, a much-needed

"Dang 'im!" said the new rider. "Th' best hoss I ever straddled I brung with me over here. Now—dang 'im!—this youngster has lassoed an' lassoed an lassoed th' pore critter until he's wilder'n a cub wolf an' all skin an' bones, never gittin' to grab a peaceful mouth of hay. Say—"

Tactfully Knotty drew the injured man aside and explained much in detail. At the end the new rider was almost apologetic. "Aw, sure," he said. "Sure. Reckon I didn't understand. Yeah. Sure. Thass all right. Yeah." Later he even offered to let the Kid ride his much-prized horse.

Saunders called the Kid aside the night before the round-up—chuck wagon, remuda, and assembled men from two other ranches—went into the field. He gave the Kid strong words and strong advice. Little good it did. . . . At sunrise, while the cook cleaned up alone, and cursed, and harnessed the four mules to the chuck wagon, and all the rest of it, the Kid was riding his old cutting horse at Dad Wilkins' side. Dad Wilkins grinned.

Three days went by. . . .

It wasn't that the Kid was lazy. No. far from it. The instant he came into camp, he fell to helping the cook. But at dawn, somehow or other, he always managed to get the old cutting horse from the *remuda* and saddle. He evaporated into thin air it seemed, to jog nonchalantly down some slope an hour later and take his position at Dad Wilkins' side.

Saunders' words to him made the air sing. The Kid said, "Yes-sir, boss; yes-sir." If he were ordered back, he disappeared for an hour, rarely longer. Saunders, who had readily enough foreseen what might happen that night when he had let himself make the Kid the promise, had no idea things could turn out as badly as they had. The Kid wasn't himself, a mania had ahold of him; he was crazy with his mad ambition. Saunders seldom spoke to him without cursing. Yet secretly he admired the Kid's superb nerve. He hoped, secretly, that the cook would let things slide a bit and not force an issue out of it. The riders all grinned.

THE crisis came the fourth night, as the ride was swinging back from the east. The Kid came in too late to help with anything. He came riding in alone on the old cutting horse, and the animal was near exhaustion. It seemed, from what everyone could gather and from what two had seen, that the Kid, rope down, swinging madly, had given chase to a stray coyote and followed it for no one knew how far. Five miles; ten, possibly.

Dad Wilkins was furious. "If you don't get up in 500 yards," he bellowed at the Kid, "yo're done for, yo'll never git up, yo'll never kitch 'im. Ain't I said thet? Don't you never pay no attention?"

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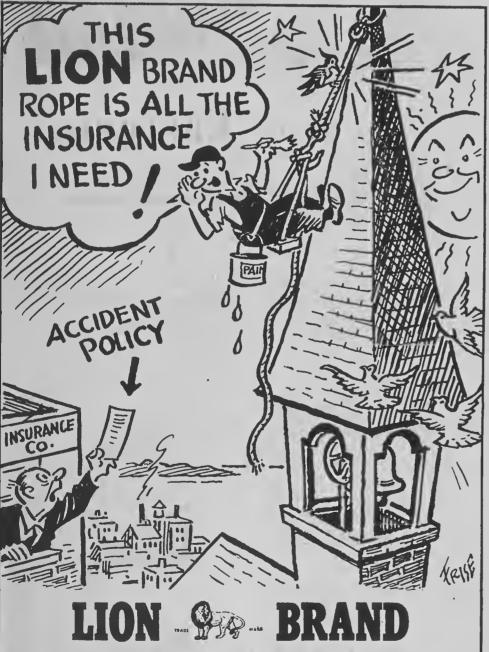
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It was the cook's voice though, rising in a shrill crescendo, that brought things to a head. He was leaving, pulling out, hauling freight "to hell away from the Circle Z." No helper; nobody to drive team or help harness! "A nocount, dizzy-headed, boot-wearin', gal'vantin' youngster!" . . . So on, while Saunders tried his best to soothe him.

It couldn't be done. At last Saunders turned to the Kid.

"All right, Kid," he said very slowly; "you're followin' the cook out to Morro Junction tomorrow. Don't let me ever see you on the Circle Z again. You can keep th' old cuttin' hoss I give you. You're old enough to make yo're own way now, I reckon. That's all."

After all, the Kid had just turned 15. No one ever knew how blurred and dizzy the stars looked through that night, as he stared at them over the edge of his blankets. He was up long before daylight making the coffee fire, as though that would make amends; while the cook still lay under his dirty tarpaulin, feigning sleep, and the riders, later, joined in rummaging the grub boxes.

Saunders, now that it was given, was sternly true to his word.

"B'ye," he said, "I'll jog along to th' Junction with 'em, an' try to bring back a new cook an' helper by tomorrow night. Yo'-all can sling grub together, between you, till then, I guess." As an aftermath he told Dad Wilkins to come along and they would check the north range as they went through, sort of look things over. The round-up would be over in a couple of days.

Dad Wilkins came over to the Kid, as the Kid saddled the old horse. "Kid," he said, "want to ride one of my hosses? Let th' cook take yo're ol' nag.'

The Kid understood that Dad Wilkins was making a parting gift to him, a day's ride on one of the fine saddlers of the old man's string. "Yeah, Dad. I'd like mighty well to."

The old man shortly led a beautiful, clean-limbed sorrel out of the remuda, his best horse, one of the year-beforelast colts "Take 'er," he said.

The Kid re-saddled. Together the four of them swung into the start of the 60-mile ride into Morro Junction, an ominous strange silence between them. . . . As he had come, three years before, the Kid was going back.

T was toward noon, up on the little Mutau, that Swifty made a kill—a fat ruffed grouse that he had taken off the nest. He was crouched low in the brush because in the daylight he felt conspicuous. . . . In the time since Swifty had left the pen at the Circle Z he had met up with a little bitch fox who had lost her mate, and the two had come to hunt together. Then one night the bitch had dropped a belated litter of pups in a shelved-rock den not far from the big pine, and since that time Swifty had seen her only occasionally. He knew that she had a nest of growing pups, and that he was not especially welcome; but, as had happened before, some instinct now prompted him to take the grouse to her.

His first knowledge that any other animal was about came from his ears —the stealthily soft, swift rush of something through the twigs and stems of the brush behind him.

Before he saw it, he knew what it was. He shot into the open, the grouse in his jaws. The terrible memory of his first puppy kill came over him. Fear blinded him; fear made him forget the grouse, cling stubbornly to it. His body was a streak of grey into the open. The big, tawny coyote snapped viciously at the plume of his tail.

They quartered into the flat. Half across, Swifty suddenly changed his course and turned back. The coyote's teeth nipped his haunch. Still Swifty did not drop the grouse; fear stunned his usually quick little brain.

A sudden sharp halloo echoed across the flat. In the madness of the chase Swifty had almost led into four riders just emerging from the brush ahead. Someone yelled again.

Swifty managed to dodge. The coyote had turned and fled.

Down the open, long flat the coyote fled while the mad little sorrel, picked two years before from the best of the Circle Z's horses by old Dad Wilkins' cunning eye, followed. She was very fast.

Then it appeared that the Kid would be too slow-too slow in getting his rope loose. Seconds seemed to take on the maddening span of minutes. The old man yelled frantic, high-pitched advice that the Kid of course did not hear. Old Dad Wilkins thought that his throat was raw and cracked from so many words; in reality they were only four, measuring the passage of triple-second intervals.

Half a dozen times the coyote zigzagged. Finally he saw his chance and turned straightly for the edge of the flat and the thick underbrush, where no rope could penetrate.

The Kid's reata was singing in a tiny noose across the sorrel's flattened ears. "Kid! Kid! Git 'im!" old Dad Wilkins yelled. Even Saunders shouted.

In a swift, straight line the noose left the Kid's hand; shot out beyond the sorrel. Trained, fine animal that she was, she slid to her haunches. In a tiny, fore-going swirl of dust the coyote upended, bit at the rope, writhed, and got to his feet.

He was jerked down again. Spurs in her sides, the sorrel raced back up the length of the flat. On the end of the Kid's rope the tawny-grey coyote fought, snarled, bit at the rope, and turned over and over again. . . .

Of course the Kid could soon enough have dragged the coyote to death, but old Dad Wilkins, it seemed, didn't want to see him take that chance. The old man worked his horse in behind and shot his own reata onto the animal. . . . It was all over then.

SAUNDERS didn't say much as they rode on, quartering down into the valley to the Circle Z buildings, getting the cook's belongings and packing them on a horse and continuing on to Morro Junction He didn't refer to what had happened up on the Little Mutau at just a little before noon. He didn't look at the Kid, riding behind at Dad Wilkins' side.

"Dad," said the Kid, "you saw it. didn't you? You saw th' little fox-that same little fox what you give me?"

"Rats!" said the old man. "Tweren't the same fox. All fox look alike. Kid, you let yore imagination run away with you."

"I guess I know that little feller, Dad. When I let him go, I told him we'd meet ag'in sometime. Reckon he understood."

The day passed into sunset, then dusk, and the few lighted windows of the Junction twinkled out on the road ahead. The four riders pushed their horses to the hitch-rail before the single hotel of the town.

"Wall, so-long," said the Kid after a while, to old Dad Wilkins. "So-long, Dad. I won't never fergit you, I guess." His voice lowered to a whisper. "Dad, I reckon I won my spurs anyhow, at the end. Good little ol' fox!"

The old man pressed the Kid's hand. "Say, Kid," Saunders' voice cut in, "where you goin'?"

"Don't quite know yet, boss."

"Leavin' the Circle Z, are you?"

"I reckoned so, boss."

"Th' ranch ain't so bad, Kid."

"No-I know it."

"What you goin' for then?"

"Cause you know that-

"Maybe it's a raise in wages you want, huh?" "Not exactly. Say, boss, you don't

mean-"

Saunders appeared not to hear. "Wall.

if that's the case, I kin offer you thirty-a-month, not as top hand quite, but as one of th' ridin' men. That enough raise to hold you, Kid?" Under his breath he went on: "No man's ever said I don't keep my word straight through."

The Kid stood shuffling from one foot to the other. Then: "Boss, I reckon I don't want you to take me back just because of yore promise that night."

"Aw forgit it," said Saunders gruffly. "Forgit it. Ain't I always lookin' for a good ridin' man-one that's won his spurs, huh? One that'll stick with me?" "I'll sure stick, boss."

Even the cook smiled into the dark-

Dairying in Scandinavia

Some statistics from countries whose people export fine butter and replace it with margarine on their own tables

N 1946, the nine leading milk-producing countries of the world were the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Switzerland. During the war years the United States produced as high as 119 billion pounds. Last year the United Kingdom production was 18.6 billion pounds and Canada something less than 18 billion pounds.

The Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland) are important producers of dairy products. Their production was decreased during the war owing to a decline in numbers of dairy cattle, but since the war's end strong efforts have been made, not only to increase the number of dairy cattle, but to increase average production. Although in 1946 Denmark ranked sixth among the leading milk producing countries, her average production in pre-war years (1934-38), was 11.6 billion pounds, as compared with 10.2 billion pounds for Sweden. Finland averaged 5.5 billion pounds and Norway 2.9 billion pounds.

In 1946, the United States achieved her highest average milk production per cow, with an average of 4,891 pounds. Denmark, in the same year and in spite of the shortage of imported feeding stuffs and other dislocations due to the war, had an average of 6,324 pounds (pre-war 7,047) and Sweden an average of 5,497 pounds (pre-war 5,327). Pre-war average production in Finland was 4,268 pounds and in Norway 3,360 pounds.

Before the war Denmark was the leading butter export country in the world, shipping principally to Germany and the United Kingdom, as did Sweden and Finland. Denmark also exported more than 20 million pounds of cheese before the war, and ranked seventh among the 19 cheese exporting countries.

For the five years 1934-38, Denmark averaged 328 million pounds of butter exports, of which 78 per cent went to the United Kingdom, and 20 per cent to Germany. In 1946, Denmark was only able to produce a total of 310 million pounds of butter, which was an increase of about six per cent over the preceding year. Exports last year totalled 167 million pounds, an increase of 32 million

pounds over 1945. The Danish people themselves had consumed an average of 119 million pounds in the last three

In addition to exporting butter and cheese, Denmark exports canned milk and dried milk. Last year she produced 31 million pounds of the former and 14 million pounds of the latter. This year her dairy production will probably fall owing to unfavorable spring weather, and the resulting decline in dairy exports is a matter of serious concern, since about 26 per cent of the total value of Danish exports last year were of dairy products.

ALTHOUGH there were fewer dairy cattle in Sweden last year than before the war, the average production of milk per cow had been increased sufficiently to make 1946 total milk production higher than the pre-war total. Butter production was 219 million pounds. an increase of 45 per cent over the 1934-38 average production. Cheese production also increased by 28 million pounds to a total of 98 million pounds.

During the war Sweden could export only small quantities of dairy products, for relief purposes. She imported some condensed milk, cheese and butter from Denmark, and dried milk from Argentina. The outlook for dairy production is improving owing to increasing imports of oil cake and protein feed.

IN Norway, dairying is the largest single source of farm income. The country aims to be self-sufficient in dairy products and has never exported to any extent, except a few varieties of fancy cheese.

During the war, there was, of course, a shortage of grains and protein concentrate. An attempt was made to supplement these feeds with especially treated cellulose material secured from wood. The artificial product did supply additional sources of energy, but limited amounts of fish meal were resorted to for protein.

Milk production in Norway in 1946 was slightly below the pre-war figure and reached 2.7 billion pounds which was more than had been expected. The feed situation recently has been improving and imported feed grains and con-

centrates are easier to obtain. The number of dairy cows was still about eight per cent below the 1939 figure, and it was not expected that the pre-war figure of 854,366 will be reached until year after next.

Milk consumption is increasing in Norway. The demand for fluid milk has been unprecedented and government policies favor the drinking of milk rather than the manufacture of butter and cheese. All three are rationed. Creameries in Norway sell fluid milk; and last year the amount sold was 811 million pounds, as compared with 514 million pounds in 1939. Not until the demand for fluid milk has been satisfied will butter and cheese production increase to any extent. In the three prewar years, Norway produced 32.5 million pounds of butter and 46.2 million pounds of cheese. Last year butter and cheese production combined amounted to 34 million pounds. A matter of some importance is the shortage of farm workers due to high industrial wages.

DAIRYING has been important in Finland for 700 years. The first dairies were established in the country about 1860 and the first co-operative dairy in 1901. By the end of 1927, 83 per cent of all the dairies in Finland (550) were co-operative.

Finnish butter has been exported since the 16th century, and exports to Great Britain began in 1890 when steamships began regular weekly sailings under subsidy by the government. Last year Finland produced 55.5 million pounds of butter and 7.5 million pounds of cheese, the latter figure representing a much sharper reduction from pre-war years than in the case of butter. Finland is said to need 20 times the amount of imported fodder she is getting.

NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS

Continued from page 48

informed the men of the cougar's movements and they located him up another tree, near the first one.

The next shot also found its mark, but the cat still climbed slowly down the tree, so John fired a shot at it with the .22, hitting it in the neck.

It slumped down, and the men brought it out to the grassy rise by the fence so all could see it. What big feet! What heavy shoulders! How large it was! They all stood and looked. There was even a qualm of pity that such a magnificent animal must die.

Robert's pal, Denny, came over with his folks in their truck to see it, thinking it would be only a lynx, but finding it so large, excitedly loaded it in their truck and everyone went to town. Men, passing, had spread the word, so they met folks coming out to see it. One was a merchant who also was a sheep raiser. He had the animal put in the show window of his store where it attracted the attention of the passers-by. They soon gathered in a throng to see the first mountain lion ever captured here. Photographers and newspaper men were soon on the spot.

It was so amusing to hear people argue.

'No. It isn't a mountain lion, it's a puma."

"No. You're mistaken, it's a cougar." Some gasped in horror, to think they had been sleeping outside these hot nights, others witheringly remarked:

"I thought I was really going to see a lion, and here it's only this."

It measured six feet, four inches, and weighed eighty-six pounds. It didn't look so small to its captors.

Plans are to have it mounted. Meanwhile, mother keeps a sharp lookout for tawny things in the grass, as well as the beet hoe that has never been seen since.



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Left to right: R. W. Smith, G. H. Kobbert and J. E. Birdsall, in a 28-acre field of registered alfalfa, owned by Mr. Kobbert, at Hines Creek, Alta. This field yielded 561 lbs. of seed per acre in 1946. See page 8).



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GREEN GRASS OF WYOMING

Continued from page 11

"Never a sick day in her life," said Rob proudly.

Rodney shook his head. "That's hardly fair. Being sick is often a rest for a woman. These women that never give in—"

But Rob disagreed. "No, she was really well. It wasn't put on. Nell is strong as a horse. Things were hard for her, I know that, awfully hard, for many years."

"Were they?" Rodney turned to look at him.

"You bet they were."

"For how long?"

Rob grinned. "Ever since she married me. Before that she lived the kind of comfortable, luxurious, easy life that most girls live, city girls."

"And she came right from that to the life on the ranch here," said Rodney thoughtfully. "And you didn't have running water or electricity or a furnace, at first, did you?"

"We had nuthin'," said Rob grimly. "Nuthin' but babies, debts, bills, hard work and one disappointment after the other. But she wasn't sick *then*, Rodney, she was swell. She did the work of ten. She never gave up, never collapsed, never broke down."

"Never," said Rodney slowly, "until now."

"Yes. Now when everything is going so well. Furnace in, a cook for her, plenty of help, no worries!" and Rob finished with a helpless, bewildered

"Perhaps that's just the trouble," suggested Rodney.

Rob turned to look at him questioningly. "How?"

"Perhaps she's one of those women who never gives up as long as the going is tough. When everything is easy for them, they go all to pieces."

Rob screwed up his face and shoved his hat back to scratch his head.

Rodney added, "That just means that they let go and give in at a time when they can afford to. They've been drawing on their reserves all the time. Sooner or later the bill has to be met."

"That seems pretty far fetched, Rod-ney."

"You'd be surprised," said Rodney, "it often happens. In fact, it's almost sure to happen. I had one patient, all through the depression her husband was out of work, they nearly starved, were evicted from one rented house after the other. She was a tower of strength. Never sick. Her husband got a good job, she had a nervous breakdown."

Rob rubbed his chin reflectively. 'Nell hasn't had a breakdown — I wouldn't go so far as to say that."

"She might be better now if she had had one," said Rodney. "If she had let herself go to pieces—get a nurse—give up everything—be really sick, perhaps go to the hospital and then get over it."

Rob shook his head. "Nell just couldn't," he said simply.

"Then," said Rodney, "we know what's the matter with her. We've diagnosed the case."

Rob was silent a few moments digesting this. "That amounts to saying that it is mental," he said.

"The glands are all tied up in whatever is mental and emotional. And when they get out of balance, then there are physical results. I could kick myself," he added. "I should have studied her more closely and given her some tests. But I never noticed."

"That's just it," said Rob, "one doesn't notice anything wrong with her. That is, one *didn't*. But now I think even the boys notice it."

"How?" asked Rodney.

"Oh, it's not like Nell to go pewling and mewling around. About her food, for instance, she's so picky about it. She never used to complain if I happened to bring out something from Cheyenne that isn't just exactly what she put on the list for me to get."

Rodney chuckled. "Gives you back talk, does she? Good for Nell!"

"Back talk!" Rob was aggrieved. "She says that I ought just to stop using my own judgment and obey orders for a change."

Rodney laughed outright.

"You can laugh," said Rob doggedly, "but it isn't like Nell."

"No, I guess it isn't, at that," said Rodney.

They sat a moment in silence, then Rob added. "There's one thing—perhaps I should tell you—that a year before Penny was born Nell and I were at outs with each other. In fact we almost came to the point of separating. Did you know that?"

"Never dreamed of it," said Rodney, chewing his piece of grass. "How did that affect Nell?"

"Well, she really went down then. Anyone could see it. She didn't eat. Got thin as a rail. Didn't sleep either. It went on a long time."

"Of course a thing like that plays hob with the whole system," said Rodney. "Then you made it up?"

"Yes."

"And what happened to Nell? That's when she should have had her breakdown—leave you for a while—get a rest somewhere, hospital maybe."

"Well—" said Rob hesitantly, "we had been so keen to have a little girl—another baby—and that's when Penny started."

"She went right into a pregnancy," said Rodney thoughtfully, "and she didn't have an easy time either when Penny was born."

"I know."

"And now since the baby came she hasn't had her out of her sight—how old is Penny?"

"Twenty months."

"Nor been off this ranch."

"No."

Rodney acted as if the case were closed. He removed the grass from his mouth, took his hat off, passed his handkerchief over his thinning hair, then opened his creel and began to count his trout.

N^{ELL} had spent the afternoon at her piano.

She had had a large repertoire as a girl. Her mother had believed that only a repertoire acquired in the teens is a permanent possession. If you can hear an old woman playing the few remaining pieces she can remember, they are almost certain to be the first pieces that she liked and learned. And they must not be too difficult. Otherwise they will be lost as life goes on.

Chopin provided an inexhaustible supply of the kind of music one could play all one's life.

Nell had known by heart his "Etudes," "Preludes," "Nocturnes," the "Maiden's Wish," the "Berceuse," the



"Is it GOOD? My own cats won't eat anything else."

"Funeral March." All of these and many others by different composers she was in process of "getting back."

This wonderful piano! At the thought

of it she felt a warm rush of happiness and gratitude toward Rob. How good he was to her. How constantly he thought of her and did things for her! One of his great pleasures, since his finances had improved, was giving her presents. The beautiful new silver set on her dressing-table. The little bedroom clock with its soft chimes. The clothes he insisted on her having—why, he never even passed her, if he was eating something good, without offering her a bite!

Love itself is a virtue, she thought. If love is in the heart of a man or a woman they are the better for it. And what love was in the heart of Rob! A great lover, ardent and tempestuous! There was a flame in him, greater than any flame in her, and it blew steadily upon her, warming her whole person and lifting her to an intensity of feeling and living which she could not have known without him.

She was practicing the "Berceuse." Strange that so free and rich a melody should have been set to an accompaniment which consisted of one bar played over and over throughout the entire piece. . . .

She wondered if Howard, if Ken, would ever know love as she knew it. How would it come to them? It comes, she thought, not as affection or admiration, or any sentiment, but as if one suffered a blow, an impact; as if two elements rushed together and became one. It is all one can do to hold up under it. One is changed, and struggles along as a blinded, bewildered, changed being.

Her thoughts clung to this theme.

How little of such love there was in the world, how few husbands and wives, as the years went on, retained that deep power of emotion for each other. Why should this be? Life separated them-that was the reason. Their interests, so often different, drew them apart. And most married people, especially those living in cities, simply did not spend time enough with each other to nourish their love. Love cannot survive if you just give it scraps of yourself, scraps of your time, scraps of your thoughts. "No Time For Love." It could be a song! But if you do consider marriage important enough to be worked at, then you can build a happy marriage just as you build a house. You build it out of patience and forbearance, determination, understanding, self-sacrifice, and appreciation. You shine like the sun on anything you can shine on or smile at or love. You forgive and forget and by-pass the things you cannot shine on or smile at or even endure. It ought to be taught in the schools, she thought suddenly, it's so important. It's an art and it has a technique—which should be learned. And when you have made your successful marriage, though you've paid a big price, yet the reward is out of all proportion. A house of happiness. A safe refuge. An enduring, living harmony that sounds in the ears like a bell! She must tell the boys that. She must train them so that if the true mating should come to them they would know how to cherish it and keep

happened to her. . . .
She pulled her mind back to the "Berceuse." This, too, was love—the composer was expressing the love of a mother for her child—yes, a mother's dream over the cradle of her child.

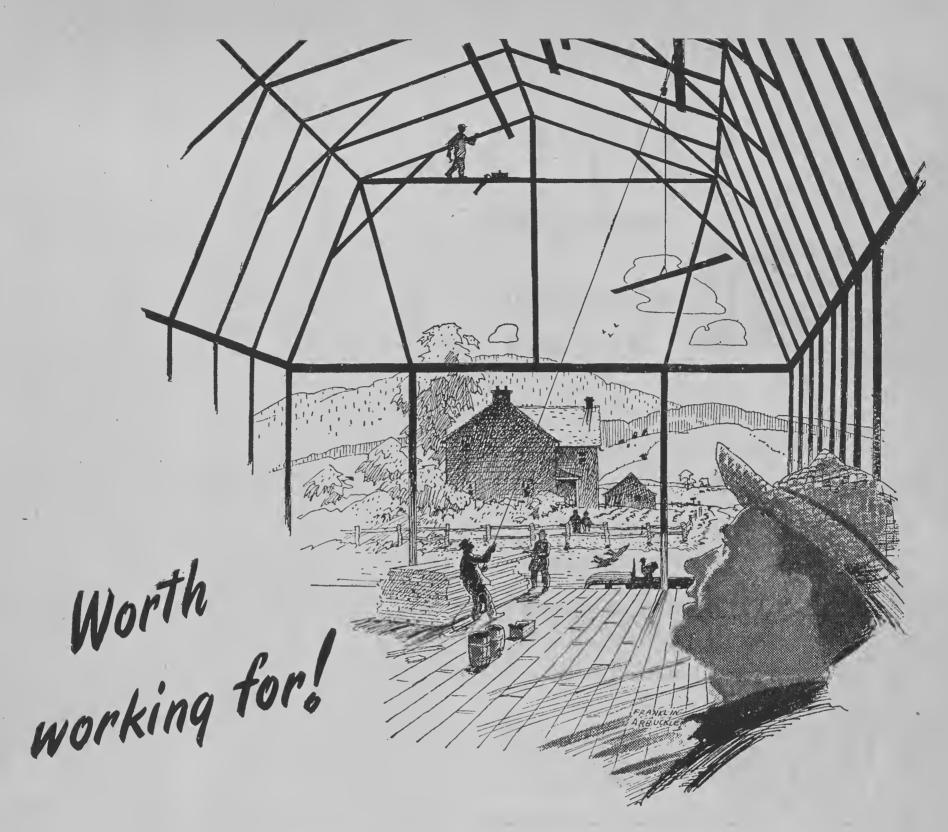
it, sacrificing themselves and everything

else, in order that it might always be nourished and live. Tell them these

things quickly so that, no matter what

world . . . it was a force, like electricity, it was a creative power . . . any sort of love, the love between men and women, or children and parents, or friends, or love for music or art or beauty or work or God. . . . Could there be happiness without it? And, provided

THE COUNTRY GUIDE

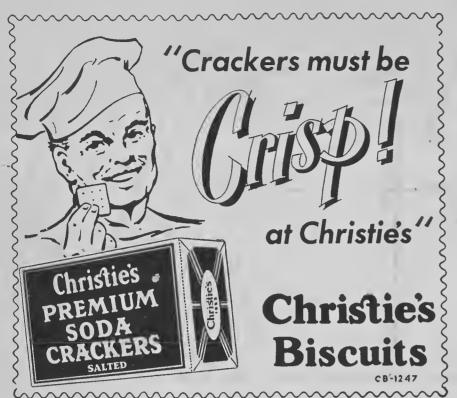


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it was there, could there be any real unhappiness? Could life exist without it? Would not all life wither away and die if love were withdrawn?

Somewhere she had read an essay about those modern nations which proclaim that they can, and will, live without God. The author finished his essay by raising the question: How will they like it when they try to live without love?

THAT was the interesting idea. Did all love proceed from God? Without God, would love vanish from the earth and from the hearts of humanity?

While the liquid dreaming notes of the "Berceuse" rippled from under her fingers she tried to strip love out of the world. But it was impossible. As long as there was color in the sunset, as long as there was music, as long as human beings clung to each other—no.

Howard came in, pulled up a big chair to face his mother and sat down to listen.

She glanced at him, smiling, went on playing.

He laid his head back, slung one long thin leg over the arm of the chair. He had obviously been doing something violent, looked tired and hot, his neckerchief twisted under one ear, black hair plastered to his head.

Nell wondered what he would say, what was in his mind. Would it be about Carey? or Barbara? Perhaps he was about to tell her.

"Only eight days more," he finally said.

That was it. He was counting the days before he left home.

"Mother, isn't it the darndest thing the way I always have to leave just when something is happening? Two summers ago, remember? I missed out on seeing Thunderhead in the race at Saginaw Falls. And the year before that, right after I left, Ken went up to the Valley of the Eagles and got

Saginaw Falls. And the year before that, right after I left, Ken went up to the Valley of the Eagles and got tangled up with the eagle and had all those adventures. And now this year I have to leave just before we go out to find Thunderhead and Jewel. Damn the luck!"

Nell's eyes were upon him, smiling, while her fingers continued to play.

"West Point is a pretty big adventure, it seems to me."

Looking directly into her eyes, taking her along with him, as it were, into his future, the trip on the train, up the Hudson to West Point, feeling her excitement, her sympathy, he was comforted.

He relaxed in his chair. "Play the 'Polonaise,'" he said. "It always makes me feel like doing things—big things."

Nell played it. When she had finished it, he said, "Mother, do you remember when I went away to school the first time, you gave me a talk? Kind of a lecture?"

"Did I, son?"

"Well—I did it."

"Did what?"

"Did the things you told me to. Two things."

"What were they?"

"You told me to pray. And to be honest."

Nell bent her head over the piano and began to play again to conceal the feeling that surged up in her. Mothers talk so much, advise so much, are all the time correcting and pointing out and lecturing, but if out of all that flood of talk a few things can be remembered and acted upon, a few such things as that—to be honest, to pray.

"What I was thinking," began Howard hesitatingly, "will you tell me something this time, too? This is even more important, isn't it? Going to West Point? I won't be back for two years. Well, it's over, isn't it, Mum, being a boy at home here?"

Nell glanced at her son with a little rueful smile and nodded.

"Will you, Mum?"

"Why do you want it, Howard?"

"Well, when you're out in the world,

it's kind of comforting to have things like that to remember and to go by."

"Of course, darling, I'll talk to you—tell you anything I can."

"What'll it be about?"

She dropped her hands in her lap. "It'll have to be about whatever I am thinking most about—have been thinking about for a long time."
"What?"

There was a silence before she

answered. "Love. I seem to have been thinking about that." "What kind of love?"

"All kinds. But it all leads up to the final love—the love of God."

Howard was dumbfounded. He jumped to his feet. "Oh, mother!" he exclaimed. "Do you think that would be any help?"

Her expression was quizzical. "I think it would, dear. A lot of help. Maybe not right now. But some day."

He straightened himself up, stuffed into his belt the tail of his shirt which had come out, and said, "All right. Don't forget. I'm going for a swim betore supper." He leaned over, kissed her, padded out of the room on his sneakered feet and vanished.

Nell sat in silent thought for a while, experiencing the deepest tenderness for her son, for both boys, feeling that there was so very little she could do for them, wonderful that she could do anything when within herself she was so confused, so full of fear, so inadequate. But she had noticed that when any demand was made upon her it strengthened her, as if that power of God or power of love rushed through her to them, leaving a deposit in her.

She began to play again. The "Etudes" now—the "Butterfly," then the "Black Finger"—strange! Actually her technique was better than before she had talked to Howard, she was stronger.

NELL went out to the terrace. Penny was there in her pen and she did not like her pen. But the pen was a necessity for, though she was small for her age, she was as swift as quicksilver. She ran with little twinkling feet that reminded Nell of the sandpipers on the Cape Cod beaches. She was here, there, and everywhere, so quickly it was impossible to keep track of her.

Now most of the baby's toys had been hurled away and she was sitting in one corner, sucking her thumb. Her blue eyes were angry, her vivid face was flushed, her mouth was a scarlet ring around her tiny thumb, her dark hair with its glints of gold was a mass of tousled curls over her forehead.

When she saw Nell she plucked out the thumb and held out her arms with a torrent of the soft and liquid bird notes which were her special language. Nell picked her up and took her in and sat her on top of the grand piano and coaxed her to sing. Nell would sing a note, Penny would open her mouth with an excited, delighted expression on her face and emit an "Oh!" an octave higher. Nell sang a song Penny sang along with her, not the right notes, but an ecstatic warbling.

She suddenly stopped singing, turned her head and listened. Nell did likewise There came to them the deep sounds of the bull roaring.

Penny looked questioningly at he mother. "No more?" she suggested. Nel did not know whether she wanted no more singing or no more bull roaring.

"Come, honeybunch, let's go for a walk," said Nell. She lifted the bab off the piano and set her on the floor Penny trotted to the door and pushe at the screen. Nell took her by the hand and they went down to the Green

They wandered around. Penny's miniature world was close to the earth Every few steps she found something to interest her, a clump of dandelions a beetle laboriously climbing a grass blade, a brightly shining piece of quartz. She would sit down in the easy manner of infants, without bending of the knees, just a little plump and

there she was, her hand slipping out of Nell's.

Nell seated herself on the stone coping of the fountain.

Kim, the yellow collie, came slowly across the Green, his ears flat because of the love he was feeling at sight of Nell there and the baby sitting on the grass. He looked, smiling, from one to the other, and then went to Penny, standing with his pointed nose close to her face and his brush of a tail wav-

"Doggie! Doggie!" exclaimed Penny,

Kim lay down close beside her so that this delightful game might be continued. She picked the dandelions, one by one, and sprinkled them on him.

Cricket's roars were getting closer. He was being brought to the barn with

ing gently. and patted the top of his head with a little fist.

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the cows for evening milking and feed-

A wave of fear went over Nell. It was not the bull. It was the meaningless fear she had had this last year, always accompanied by a feeling of helplessness to avert whatever fate was impending. It was as if suddenly she were going to be run over . . . a locomotive was bearing down upon her . . . or a crowd of men with uplifted axes were hurling themselves upon her . . . or she was drowning . . . or someone had her by the throat . . . or she was going over a cliff in an automobile.

She put her hand to her throat. There was that terrible feeling of constriction. Could there be the slightest reason for this or was it pure hysteria? Was it true, as she thought, that she really had not long to live? Howard-this little talk he asked forwas it farewell? Would she ever see him again? Two years-

The conviction came to her that she would not live that long. She was not getting better, she was getting worse.

She stood up and walked nervously down toward the cowbarn. She saw the cows coming around the shoulder of the hill in the calf pasture. Tim was driving them. She noticed the pitchfork in his hand.

Cricket maneuvered to get behind

Tim turned, held his pitchfork in charging position and yelled, "Come on, you!" making a gesture as if to go for him.

Grunting, Cricket ran nimbly forward into position with the cows, then paused to drop his head, paw up a cloud of dust and give a bellowing roar.

Tim yelled again and made pretense of going for him. Cricket subsided and walked through the corral gates.

Wink was in the barn, measuring out the feed for the cows. Now he threw open the doors into the corral and the cows filed in to take their places at the long manger.

watched Cricket eating his Nell ground oats.

THE sturdy corral fence was between them. She went to it and leaned on the top pole. Cricket licked up the last of the grain and stood there in profile to her.

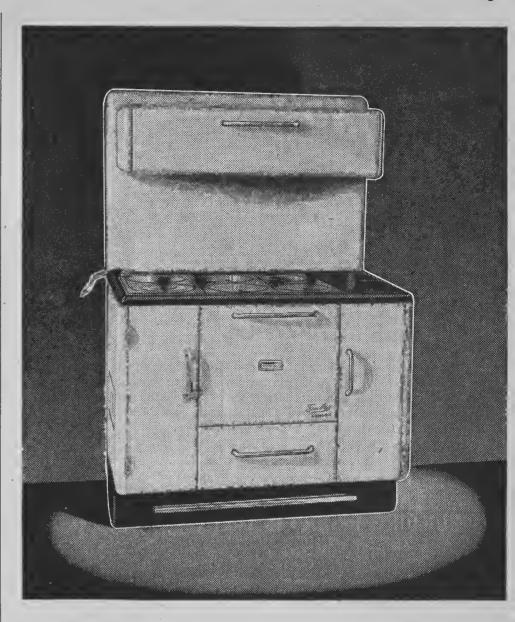
He was a large Guernsey, a dark, reddish brown shading to white on the belly. If you parted the hairs and looked at the skin you saw it was the color of an orange peel. Hoofs, horns, ears had a rich orange.

They had bought him as a two weeks' old calf. Nell had raised him, feeding him with a bucket. He had learned to feel for her fingers in the pail of warm milk, and sucking on these, to draw the milk into his mouth. Soon he had learned to take the milk alone. But if ever she wanted to call him to her and get him to follow her, all she had to do was hold out her hand, he would seize it in his mouth and then, sucking it vigorously, follow wherever she led.

And now he had turned into this, a monster who knew where everyone on



"He's always crawling into rat holes





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the ranch was at any time. If they moved out of the house, he knew it. If anyone walked in the meadows, Cricket paced along the nearest fence, which might be a mile away, watching them, threatening them with his fearful roars, now and then pausing to examine the flimsy barbed wire as if, some day, he might take it into his head to ignore that ridiculous thing and charge through it. He hadn't—yet.

He stood now in profile to Nell, his head hanging over the empty feed can. To judge by his attitude and position he did not know she was there, but his eye was turned back, looking full at her, crafty and dangerous.

She was still standing there, watching the bull, when Rob and Rodney Scott returned from the meadow. Milking was over and the cows were in the corral. The gate stood open to the calf pasture. A few of them were moving out. Cricket was quiet.

"I want Rob to sell that bull or have him killed, Rodney," said Nell as they approached her. "Don't you think he should?"

"I should say not!" exclaimed Rob. "We raised him from a calf, and now he's proved. His first calves are milking and giving higher butterfat than any of our other cows. Sell him? Don't be silly."

"I really mean it," said Nell. "Rodney, you know the awful things that happen. You're always reading in the paper about thoroughbred dairy bulls goring their owners. You hear the tales on every farm. If a bull turns badtempered, as Cricket has, sell him! And sell him the day before something happens—not the day after!" And suddenly her voice was shaking.

Rob was exasperated. "Nell! I can't make out what's got into you. You didn't used to be such a scare cat. This is a proved bull! We're lucky to have him. A new young bull would not be proved and might never turn out to be any good. What if he is bad-tempered? The men can watch out for themselves!"

"Those flimsy barbed-wire fences," stammered Nell.

"Nell, if we started being afraid of all the dangerous things that happen or can happen on a ranch, where would

can happen on a ranch, where would we be?"
This silenced Nell. It was true. Every day was full of danger. Horses—weather

day was full of danger. Horses—weather—lightning—bulls—ropes—machines—they lived on sufferance. She drew a deep breath.

Rob changed his tactics. He put his hand on her arm and beamed at her.

"Listen, honey, Rodney and I've been talking about you. You're a nervous woman. That's why you worry about the bull and everything. We want you to go to the hospital and take a long rest."

Nell looked at him as if he were crazy. Then at Rodney.

Rodney seemed embarrassed, but presently he nodded and said, "How would you like that, Nell?"

"I wouldn't like it at all," said Nell with a short laugh. "I think it's the silliest thing I ever heard of. Go on up to the back door and get the fish smell off yourselves, then come to the terrace and I'll have something cool for you to drink."

RODNEY went to the trough up by the spring house to clean his fish.

Kim had followed Rob and now stood watching him playing with the pups. His tail waved gently, enjoying vicariously the tenderness, the petting. There was a quizzical, tolerant expression on his face. Rob put the pups down. They rollicked over to Kim, clambered at him, pawed and bit his legs. The collie moved quietly away and sat down.

As it was nearly supper time all the small domestic animals were assembled, the cats and kittens in a frenzy over the entrails of the fish that Rodney threw them.

The cocker bitch, Daisy, poked her

face around the corner of the building watching Rob as he opened the faucet and sloshed water over his hands and

OCTOBER, 1947

She looks guilty as hell, he thought, wonder what she's been murdering now. But he said, "Hello, Daisy," and Daisy crept fearfully forward to cringe beside him.

As he stood wiping his hands one small pup lay sprawled across his boot, relaxed and adoring. He gently disengaged his foot and walked away, stooping to give Daisy a careless pat which threw her into a squirming ecstasy.

The Green lay bathed in the vivid golden light which comes late in the afternoon, laced with long pointed shadows from the pines on the cliff. Two bay mares with their foals had come down from the pines and were grazing there.

Nell was reclining in a long canvas chair on the terrace. Before her was a low table with a pitcher of tea, a bottle of Scotch, a bowl of ice and some tall glasses.

Penny, talking to herself busily, went up and down the stone steps which led from the terrace to the Green. She was dressed as Rob wanted her to be, in an embroidered white nainsook dress with lace on the edges of tiny petticoat and panties.

One of the mares moved slowly to the fountain in the centre of the Green and began to drink. Her foal followed suit, tasting the cold water and then lifting its head and shaking it from its lips.

Howard came round the corner of the house. He had been swimming. His hair was wet, his towel was over his arm. At that moment the telephone rang. Howard said, "I'll answer it!" and ran indoors.

Presently he came out holding a sheet of paper upon which he had written down the message.

"It's from Buck, Dad! A telegram from Westgate, Colorado! They telephoned it from the station! He's found the horses!"

Rob set Penny on the terrace and held out his hand. "Let's see," and took the paper Howard held out. Have located Thunderhead and seventeen head of horses west of here. Will wait here till you come. Buck.

After dinner they got the maps out and studied them. Westgate was on the North Platte near the headwaters.

Rob knew the terrain. It was treacherous country, winter country really, the snow lay deep in those valleys, the mountains ran every which way, there were all sorts of cover, canyons and ravines and thick forests.

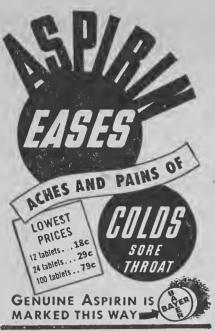
'There are plenty of ranches in that country," said Rob. "That's a piece of luck. We might find a corral near the horses and not have to build one." His pencil pointed to two dots on the map, which was spread out on the diningroom table. Howard and Ken and Carey, at his back, followed the point of his pencil with their eyes. "These are towns, Walden and Cowdrey. They're not far from Westgate. I've heard of them. We can get men from there. I've never heard of Westgate. It must be a little dump. But this is government land and it's forest country. There's plenty of lumber if we have to build."

He pushed away the maps, turned his chair from the table and put his pipe in his mouth.

"Shouldn't we wire Uncle Beaver, Mr. McLaughlin?" asked Carey.

"I was just thinking," said Rob, "if he met us at Westgate it would save him many miles. Is your Grandmother coming with him, Carey?"

Carey nodded her head very slowly, trying to think what this change of plan would accomplish. It meant that she would go to Westgate with the McLaughlins! She would be there when Jewel and Thunderhead were caught. Her eyes brightened and she raised her face to Howard's. He smiled back at her.





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Rob was thinking out loud. "But I don't know if there's a hotel or any sort of accommodations at Westgate. Probably a trailer camp! Your Grandma might find that rather rough. I think I'll drive over there—it's about a hundred and fifty miles. Look around. Talk to Buck. See what we have to do and what men we can get. See if there's a hotel in the town, and wire your uncle from there. I'll start early tomorrow morning."

"Not tomorrow, Rob. Tomorrow's Sunday, and it's the day of Penny's baptism."

"Oh, that's right. Well, the next day. Howard, you want to come?"

"You bet."

"Carey, how about you?"

"Oh, I'd love to go along, Mr. Mc-Laughlin!"

Rob glanced at Ken. "Want to come, Ken?"

Ken was silent. His face paled. During the five days of the shearing he and Carey had not really got together, whereas Carey and Howard had. If she had been angry at Howard for whatever it was he had done, in the intimacy of being amongst the sheep, watching the work of the shearers and helping Jeremy move the sheep from one pen into the other, she had forgiven him and forgotten it. They were thicker than ever. They seemed to have something new to laugh about. And Ken was completely in the dark. If he went along in the station wagon it was certain Howard would have the inside track with Carey and he would be the gooseberry. A whole long day of

He said he didn't want to go along. "Suit yourself," said Rob, and gathered up the maps.

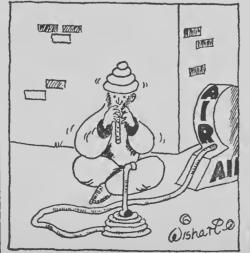
NELL had several favorite spots on the ranch where she would take a book or her sewing and spend quiet hours away from the hurly-burly of the house and the corrals.

One of them, not very far from the house, was just above the spot where the stream ran under the barbed-wire fence into the Long Pasture. Here a great cottonwood tree sent its roots down a bank toward the stream, making a tilted cradle in which one could sit, comfortably supported.

It had been a hectic morning. Pearl had not appeared to make the breakfast. When Nell went looking for her she found her still in bed, groaning with the misery of a hangover. There had been a party the day before, following Penny's baptism. But Pearl had also had a visitor, and the visitor had brought a bottle, and Pearl had made an occasion of it. Nell made the breakfast next morning.

Then the station wagon had left with Rob and Howard and Carey. Ken had disappeared somewhere on horseback in a very bad temper. Kim and Chaps had gone with him. The house was in a mess. Nell had dusted and tidied and made beds all morning, then given Penny her dinner and lain down beside her for a rest. When they awoke there was still no sound from Pearl's part of the house.

Nell took her sewing bag and sought out her favorite spot and settled herself here to spend the remainder of the





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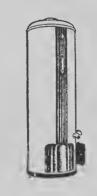
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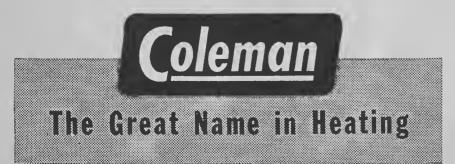


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afternoon. She was glad to be out of the house. She hoped Pearl would have slept it off soon.

Pilgrim was with her. He lay down on the edge of the shadow of the tree and put his head on his paws. He watched Nell. The bull was roaring, but far away. Nell was glad he was not close. Penny ran about, endlessly occupied by the things her bright eyes spied upon the ground.

Nell felt quiet and at peace. For one thing, she was alone on the ranch, or practically alone. And another, thing, Penny's baptism had come off at last.

Penny had behaved well, that is, she had not yelled until just at the end, and had not demanded to be passed from Nell's arms to Rob's and back again more than three or four times. And she had looked simply ravishing as she had been carried into the church, on Rob's arm, in her tiny white frock with puffs at the shoulders instead of sleeves and the pale pink bonnet set back of three silky brown curls.

Two of Nell's women friends and Howard and Ken had been the godparents.

"What is the name of this child?"

"Penelope Margaret."

"Dost thou in the name of this child, renounce the devil and all his works . . . wilt thou keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of thy life?"

"I will, by God's help."

Howard had taken it in his stride, but not Ken. He took his responsibilities seriously. Renouncing the devil and all his works for that little bundle of TNT—a big order! Ken had had a very funny look of despairing disapproval on his face when Penny had begun to be naughty.

Nell looked up. Penny was running along the barbed-wire fence. In the sky overhead some chicken hawks were tilting and circling. One of them gave a series of raucous cries. The bull had stopped roaring. There was no wind, the day was extraordinarily quiet. Pilgrim lay in the shadow, his eyes on Nell.

Nell took another piece of thread and threaded her needle. She took up the fine nainsook, found her place in the scalloped edge and began again the slow weaving of her needle.

She thought of the Reverend Richard McConnel, the pastor of St. Stephen's Church. He was an eloquent and ardent and spiritual man. Even the soles of his shoes prayed loudly to the Lord when, every Sunday before ascending the pulpit for his sermon, he knelt at the altar and bowed his black-thatched head on his arms.

THIS prayer before the sermon always touched Nell. It had touched her as a child when she had seen clergymen do it. It seemed so impetuous and passionate a thing, as if, about to preach, about to tell others what they ought to do and be, a wave of humility suddenly overcame the mere man and, like a boy, he flung himself on the altar, kneeling there oblivious of his congregation, his feet protruding from the cassock, tilted right or left, and prayed an utterly private prayer, begging pardon for his sins and inadequacies, pleading that the truth might be in him, that his words would be acceptable to his God and helpful to his parishioners.

The great doctor of theology, St. Thomas Aquinas, it was said, always prayed before preaching. Prayed, weeping. In imagination Nell could see him, kneeling and praying and weeping and the soles of his sandals praying too, but no more eloquently than the soles of the shoes of the Reverend Richard McConnel.

Nell swiftly prayed a little private prayer for Penny. "God keep her!" she prayed. "God keep and bless my baby."

And then she began to think about the party. How nicely it had gone off. It had been a buffet luncheon. Pearl had outdone herself with her creamed chicken, made of real cream and mushrooms and Parmesan cheese and scraped onion, her delicate tomato and cucumber sandwiches, the hot fresh potato chips and young peas, the first of the season, so tiny and tender and sweet that they were boiled for only two or three minutes. Strawberry ice cream and sunshine cake had ended the repast and there had been plenty of champagne—all their friends from Cheyenne and Laramie and from the ranches around had come. Penny had sat in a high chair until she began to get sleepy and fretful—and Rob had picked her up and she had put her face in his neck and sobbed "Dad-dee's baba-" and he had carried her away and put her to bed.

How sweet he was with the baby.

She looked up to see what Penny was doing and could not find her.

Nell stood up swiftly, her sewing dropping to the ground. She looked at the creek running so close to her, but it was shallow—if Penny had fallen in she would have made an outcry.

Then she saw her. The baby was seated in the midst of a clump of the flame-colored Indian paintbrush, pulling at the stalks, gathering them in her hand. These flowers were at the base of a towering clump of rocks in the pasture beyond the barbed-wire fence—how had the child got there? Through the fence? She went everywhere.

Nell went and leaned on one of the fence posts. "What's baby doing?" she called.

Penny said, "One, two, fee, fi, ten, ate, two, fee—"

Suddenly the baby stopped counting. She pointed and said, "Doggie, doggie—" She gurgled with laughter. There was a little chipmunk darting across the rock above her. It came to a stop and sat up, nibbling its fingers.

"Not a doggie, darling," said Nell, "that's a chipmunk."

Then the corner of her eye caught a movement—something big and dark coming silently down the meadow.

Cricket. His eyes were on the white dress of the baby and the patch of scarlet flowers.

Nell dropped to the ground and rolled under the wire. Her skirt caught in the barbs. She attempted to force herself through, so embedding the barbs more firmly in the strong linen cloth. With a muffled scream she exerted all her strength and jerked and tore at it.

She saw Cricket reach the baby, lower his head and stretch his nose out, sniffing at her. Penny drew back a little at the sight and smell of the great dark head so close to her, and then said questioningly, "Doggie?" She reached out a tiny hand.

Cricket's right hoof went back and under, gouging up the ground in a cloud of dust. A deep rumble came from within him, and at this terrifying sound, Penny burst into wild crying and tried to scramble to her feet. The bull turned his head and advanced it slightly, presenting the horn.

Nell flung herself upon him, bringing her clenched fist down across his nose. She snatched up the baby and leaped for the rocks. She felt the blow of Cricket's charge against her thigh and stumbled. She clawed at the rock with her right hand, clutching Penny to her with her left. She clambered up the first, the lowest of the rocks, and threw herself upon the higher one.

To get a grip on the stone with one hand, to pull up her skirts so that her bare knees could fasten upon it too—it was a frenzied effort that left her fingers and knees bleeding.

Pilgrim was barking and trying to deflect the attention of the bull. But a bull cannot easily change his target. With deep roars he swung his head low, this way and that, pushing Pilgrim aside as if he were a bothersome fly, but kept his eye on Nell. He forced himself through the smaller rocks at

the foot of the great one, reaching his horn for Nell's body.

Nell screamed. She was slipping, she could not maintain her hold. Then her fingers caught in a crack and she clung there. Penny was striking out with legs and arms, trying to squirm out of her mother's clutch. Just above on the rock was a place where a piece seemed to have been sliced off, leaving a tilted shelf. Nell clawed herself up until she reached this shelf. It was not high enough to be safe, but she could climb no farther.

Suddenly Cricket, angered by Pilgrim's persistence, turned from the rock and galloped after the dog. Pilgrim fled, stopped, turned, the bull shot past him and ground to a stop. As Cricket swung himself around, Pilgrim catapulted himself at the bull's head and seized him by the nose.

In agony as the sharp teeth went into the tender flesh, the bull roared and swung his head in a great arc. Pilgrim was swung, too, but his teeth held, and when, at last, he went flying through the air, there was a small piece of bull flesh between his fangs, and blood streamed from Cricket's nose.

Pilgrim hit the earth with a thud and lay still. Cricket came after him.

Nell's head was bowed over the screaming child clasped to her breast. She was drenched with sweat. Her heart pounded so that it shook her whole body. She watched with despair. If Pilgrim was knocked out—

The bull was upon him.

With amazement she saw the dog crawl out from behind Cricket's forelegs and trot away to the fence before Cricket could be after him again. The bull had missed his aim and gone right over the dog.

Cricket came for the rock again. Frantic from the pain of his wounded nose, he raged around the base of it, forcing himself close, reaching up with his horns.

Nell's head wavered. There was a film before her eyes. She was afraid she was going to faint or to be so dizzy that she would fall off. "Dad-dee's-ba-ba" shrieked Penny with an accompaniment of wild howls, "Dad-dee's-ba-ba!"

Nell tried to quiet the baby. "Don't cry, darling—it's all right, baby—Mummy's here."

She looked wildly around. She could see the corner of the ranch house in the distance. Was no one there? No one to drive the bull away and get her down from here?

Within herself she was screaming for

Rob, but Rob was far away—besides he had refused to get rid of the bull . . . and now this . . . it was all his fault—rage at her husband mingled with her terror.

SHE began to cry. How long was this going on? How long could she cling up here? If only Pilgrim would drive the bull far enough away she would slide down and dash for the fence.

Then her crying turned to laughing. The whole thing struck her as ridiculous. She could just see herself stuck up there on the top of the rock, treed by the furious bull with his bleeding nose. She laughed until it was hysteria—she was choking. She put one hand to her throat and there flashed before her eyes all those terrible scenes of impending tragedy. Here it was at last... she would faint, she would be unable to hold Penny—she felt her mind going—she summoned all her will.

She took off the bandana she wore on her head, wound it into a rope. She tied it tightly around Penny's body and put the ends through her own belt, knotting it fast—then consciousness left her. Penny wriggled and squirmed, stretching out her arms, yelling pitifully, "Dad-dee's ba-ba—". but she was held fast and could not get loose from the inert figure that lay on the tilted shelf of rock.

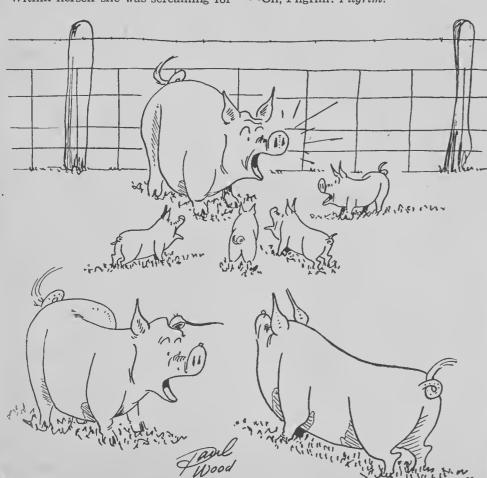
With an impact like the crash of a wave, Nell leaped back to terrified consciousness.

Ah! As if he had heard her wish, Pilgrim was at the bull again and Cricket was galloping after him, head down, heels and tail high in the air. His bellows were like thunder. Pilgrim was agile. Again and again he saved himself, then bored in to nip at haunch or shoulder as the hot charging mass swept past him.

He was watching for another chance at the nose.

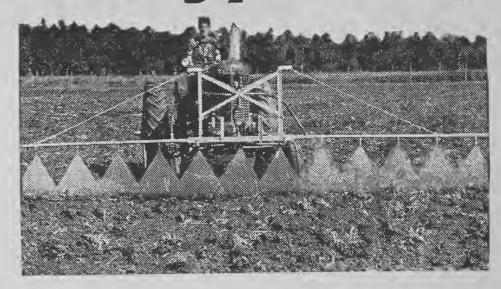
Ah! He had it! His teeth closed! Once again the frenzied beast swung his head and the dog with it. Pilgrim went sailing. But this time, when he hit the ground, Cricket was there. He made a sideways scooping motion with his head. It came up with a small twisted form on the horns. Down again. The bull kneeled. Pilgrim disappeared from view—the bull was making motion of grinding his head into the ground.

Nell heard the death cry of the dog, turned her face to the rock, clawing it to keep it from whirling out from under her. The whole universe whirled. She knew that she was fainting again—Oh, Pilgrim! Pilgrim!



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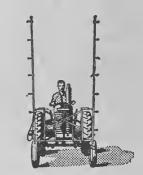
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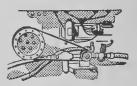
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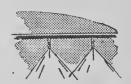
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of the bed and held her head in her hands. She had been sitting that way some time, listening to Cricket and muttering profane epithets directed at

into the kitchen, wrung out a cloth in cold water and held it to her face and

fire, pulled the coffee pot forward, then walked the floor until the coffee was hot. She poured herself a cup of the black thick fluid and sipped it, standing

She heard a horse galloping up the road. Leaning to the corner of the window, she saw it swing off the road across the field. It was Ken on Flicka and they were going hell-for-leather. Where on earth was he going? He was heading straight for the barbed-wire fence! He would never try to jump it! No—he pulled Flicka up on her haunches and leaped off, then seized the post of the fence and vaulted over and vanished from view.

Pearl couldn't make this out. She was curious. She went out onto the terrace. From here she got a glimpse of something going on down there in the meadow but it was too far away, her eyes were dim and clouded. She hurried in to Captain McLaughlin's desk and took his binoculars from the pigeonhole in which they were kept. She went out onto the front terrace, screwed the binoculars until they suddenly brought the whole scene vividly to her eyes. Nell on top of the rock! And Ken down below in the meadow fighting the bull with only his quirt. Cricket was in a frenzy. Ken had taken the offensive, he lashed and lashed him across the nose, forcing him back—the bull broke out from the blows and charged-Ken stepped aside and lashed again as the bull rushed past him.

At this point, Pearl dropped the binoculars on the terrace and ran screaming up through the Gorge. The men were in the corral, just returning with the light wagon from a day spent on the fences.

"The bull!" she screamed. "Gus! Tim! Get the pitchforks! The bull's

"YAS, Boss," said Gus, "like I'm tellin" you, Ken, he held de bull off de rock wid his quirt while his mudder come down wid de baby. He go fur him gude. He give yells. He bang him in de face -eyes-nose-und Cricket he squeel lak a pig, and he back off, an' he turn an' run, den he cum back at Ken, an' Ken, he yump yust in time, den he run after him an' he yell like crazy, an' he beat him an' lash him, an' Cricket turn 'round ag'in, an' back away-he back an' back—an' Ken he give it to um in de face all de time-den we come wid de forks-

Rob, Howard and Carey were hearing the story at ten o'clock that night. They had just reached home and were standing in a group on the front terrace in the darkness.

Chills ran up and down Carey's back. "He killed the bull, you say—" Rob's voice was slow.

"Yas, Boss. De Missus, she faint, she cum to. She faint agin. Ken got her to de house while we drive de bull to de corral. He kep' roarin' an' pawin'. He mak' a turrible racket. His nose an' his eyes hurt him. He smell blood an' he taste it. He's turrible mad. De Missus she cum down from de house holdin' de big express rifle. Ken he walk along wid her. She reach de corral fence an' put de gun troo de bars. Ken took de gun avay from her an' she begin to cry.

A harsh sound came from Rob's throat.

"Ken, he say, 'You stand avay, men.' He say it yoost lak dat, Boss. Ve get out de vay. Ken shoot de bull. De bull go down-mak' a big crash. De Missus, she go down too. Ken he pick her

oop agin, he say to me, 'Gus, you hitch chains to his horns, take de truck, cart him avay, dump him down de ole mine shaft."

"And you've done it?"

"Ya. Ve drug heem away. He's oop dere-down de mine shaft."

THERE was silence for a few moments. Carey thought of the truck dragging the great inert form over the halfmile of road, then across the prairie to the trees and the old mine shaft-of the great body hurtling down, as limp, as helpless as a little dead gopher and the crash at the bottom piling him up in a shapeless mass.

"Go-osh!" exclaimed Howard under his breath.

"And Mrs. McLaughlin wanted to go into town?" Rob's voice was labored.

"Ya. Ken, he say he go for de doctor. She say, 'No, tak me to heem.' Boss, she hold her troat. Her eyes stick out. She bust out cryin'. Den she laugh. Den she pass out. Ve put her in de car. Ken, he drive her avay."

"The baby?" Rob's voice was sharp. "Ken, he tuk her too. Vas nobody here but Pearl."

"Thank you, Gus." Rob turned to the others. "Go to bed, children. I'll go on in to town."

He walked around the house, got into the station wagon which he had just parked on the hill and drove off into the darkness.

Carey felt she could not go right to bed. Nor could Howard.

They foraged in the kitchen for food and sat at the table with the redchecked tablecloth, and ate scrambled eggs and drank chocolate, discussing the events of the day-all that Buck Daly had told them of finding the horses in a canyon bottom three miles west of Westgate. And now this awful thing about Nell and the bull.

Carey felt awed. When, at last they went to bed, she lay awake, thinking it all over, thinking of Ken. Again and again she rehearsed the scene as Gus had described it. It was like Ken to do that . . . he was brave—hot tears filled her eyes—he was the bravest, most wonderful boy she had ever known or could imagine . . . she wished she had not been so mean to him, teasing him all the time. She turned her face to the pillow and burst out crying. She fell asleep at last, only to wake with a jump after some hours.

It was the sound of cars that had waked her. She ran to the window and parted the curtains. She saw the two cars coming. Headlights blazed, then wheeled past the house. A moment later voices approached her window. Rob and Ken came past, talking in low tones. They walked close together. Rob carried the sleeping baby in his left arm. His right arm was laid across Ken's shoulders.

Then they disappeared from her view. There was the sound of the front door opening, more low voices, then their steps going upstairs.

Ken was home. Carey lay thinking that they were under the same roof again, she and Ken. And Ken was certainly a hero.

It seemed to her that, far away, she heard the pitiful sound of a puppy crying. On the day of Penny's baptism all the puppies except one, little Willy, had been given to their new owners. The first night, Nell had put him with Daisy so that he would not be alone. But he had tried to nurse. Daisy snarled and snapped at him. Nell said he might as well sleep alone and get used to it. So a box had been fixed up for him against the wall of the tool shed under the wide eaves. The sides were too high for him to crawl out of.

Yes, that was Willy. The pitiful whimpers now and then burst out into desperate yaps, then became long, trembling howls.

Carey yearned to comfort him. If she could only have him with her, in her arms, in her own bed, it would comfort her too.

SHE slipped out of bed, drew her moccasins on, and without putting on a dressing-gown, stole out into the warm night. Walking down the terrace, she saw that two kittens were walking ahead of her. They, too, had heard Willy's pitiful crying and now and then they stopped and listened, then went on toward the puppy's box. Carey walked slowly, to see what they would do.

Willy heard them coming. His crying stopped while he listened, then began again on a different note, a note of eagerness, of frantic pleading.

The kittens reached his box, crawled up and over the sides and down into it. Willy welcomed them ecstatically. Carey stood over the box, watching. What happy greetings! The kittens purred, they licked Willy's face. Willy turned and twisted and wriggled. At last they all lay down again, snuggled close, Willy's chin resting on the kittens. So they would sleep.

Carey turned away from the box and went back toward the house. She was crying again; she didn't know why. The tenderness of the little kittens seeking out the puppy to comfort him-

Suddenly she saw a dark form before her.

When she realized that it was Ken, it was a shock. Of all people, she would have wanted to be with Ken; to say something to him about what he had done, to touch his hand and feel his eyes looking at her.

She stood there, her hair hanging on her shoulders, tears streaming from her eyes, her hands outstretched to him, forgetting that she was dressed only in her white silk pyjamas.

"Oh, Ken! I do think you're so wonderful!"

Bewildered, thrilled, weary, excited, Ken moved hesitantly toward her. How close did he dare to go? He put his arms around her, he hugged her tight. he bent his head down upon hers. He felt the slim little-girl body against him, her arms went around him, and her hands held on to his waist. She cried and sobbed.

"Did you—did you—hear the puppy?" she sobbed.

"Yes. I—heard—the puppy—"

"And-you-c-came out to him?"

"Yes-" Ken hugged her tighter. He began to kiss the top of her head.

"Oh, Ken! So-did I-the poor, little p-puppy—"

Ken was beginning to feel weepy himself. His voice trembled. "Yes. Poor little fellow."

"I th-th-ink he's so path-thetic-" sobbed Carey.

Ken kissed her and kissed her. Carey's arms crept around his neck. "It's just a d-d-amned sh-shame-"

muttered Ken. "Oh, Ken! Ken-

"Gosh, Carey-"

"We-ell—I guess I've g-g-got to go—" Carey's chest heaved and her breath came with catches. She drew herself out of his arms and wiped her eyes with her hands. "Good-night, Ken-

"Good-night, Carey."

He stood there while she pattered away from him. Hel looked up at the



"If I hung it the right way some folks would say I was abusing my horse."

sky, all around, as if he were dazed. Then, suddenly, with fists clenched, he thrust both arms upward as high as he could reach—a gesture of triumph. Then he sped silently indoors.

Nell was kept under opiates for several days. The fainting, the incessant weeping stopped. She was to remain in the hospital until she had entirely recovered from the shock of her terrible experience and until the doctor had had time to make a thorough examination of her. A competent infant's nurse was sent out to the ranch to take care of Penny.

HOWARD and Ken walked up and down the platform of the Tie Siding station. Evidently each of the boys had something on his mind. They were not talking. Howard felt as if the solid ground had fallen out from under his feet. To go away from home and not have his mother there to say goodbye to him! The doctor wanted no visitors at the hospital, so Howard had no last words, no kiss, no little lecture on the love of God to take away with him. And his father was at a stockman's meeting, so there was only Ken to see him off. It made him feel like a stranger, drifting off into the world with no one caring.

Doubts! At times they shook Howard horribly. He had asked his father, when he was saying goodbye to him, "Dad, you know all the religion Mother tells us about—do you believe it, too?" And his Dad had answered. "Yes. Certainly. I don't know as much as she does, don't study it as she does, but what she tells you is true and someday you'll be awfully glad you know it. The time comes in most men's lives when they've nothing but God left!" Rob had laughed. "That phrase always amuses me. It ought to be enough for any man."

Nothing but God left-Howard paced slowly along, his eyes on the boards of the station platform, nothing but God left—that would be awful. He was a long way from that.

Ken cleared his throat with embarrassment. Both boys had been swept beyond their recent estrangement over Carey and yet it had not been thrashed out. It stood there between them.

Ken was whipping up courage, there wasn't much time, the train would be along any minute.

Finally he blurted it out. "Howard, you know that time you and I had the fight?"

"Yep."

"Well, I wish you'd tell me what had happened."

'You mean with Carey?"

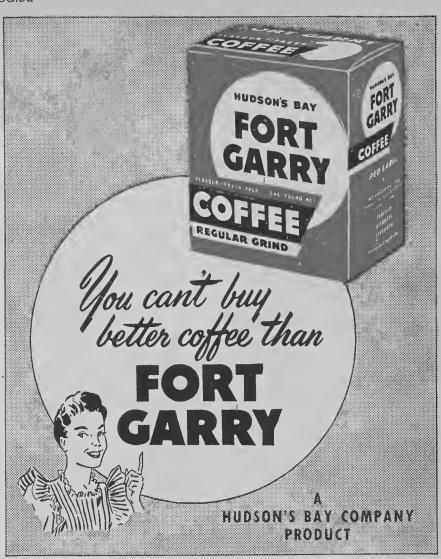
"Yes. What had you done to make her so mad?" His heart quickened now that he had actually asked for it.

Howard turned his head in a haughty manner. He never permitted his younger brother to question any of his actions. But this was a different Ken, and back of the quiet intensity of his face and his questioning eyes was authority! Ken asked as if he had a right to know. Besides, Howard was weakened by the sadness he was feeling about his mother.

He looked away rather sheepishly. "Oh, it wasn't anything like what you thought! I never kissed Carey, or even tried to."

Ken hid his jubilance. He had kissed her-he was ahead then-way ahead. 'But she was so mad at you," he said. "I heard her."

"Oh, it was just a lot of kid nonsense," said Howard. "I pushed her off the rock up above Deercreek when we were fishing. She fell in that shallow pool—all mud. She looked so funny when she got out. I laughed at her. That was what made her the maddest, because when we came home I kept laughing at her. I tried to get some of the mud off her. And there were little leeches all over her legs and arms. I picked them off her and that made me laugh some more and I put one behind





"Chee! Just think of all the delicious Grape-Nuts Flakes I could eat if I had a mouth like that!"

"I could sail into a scowful of Post's Grape-Nuts Flakes!

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"And they'd have to pack 'em loose in box cars instead of those big economy size packages."

"Come, come, Wilbur. You're making me hungry. Let's go home.'

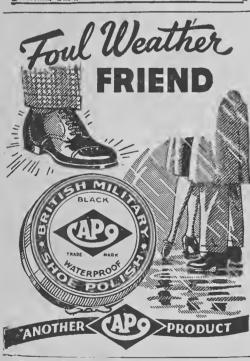
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her ear, and then when she found that-

"But you let me think-you saidyou fought me-" stammered Ken, overcome with relief and happiness. No wonder Carey had told him nothing about this humiliating experience!

"Well, I was sore that you would call me to account for anything I did. Why shouldn't I kiss her if I wanted to, if she would let me? What business was it of yours?"

There was the train in the distance. Both boys fastened their eyes on it. Howard grabbed one of his suitcases, Ken the other. Howard looked around, almost wildly. He suddenly felt as if he were plunging into an abyss-he turned to his younger brother and Ken turned as eagerly, as warmly to him. Their right hands clasped—impulsively they leaned to each other and hugged.

"It's all right, Ken. Carey doesn't care a rap for me."

"Gosh, Howard-"

"That's right-"

"I'm awfully sorry, Howard-" "Hey! I don't care a rap either-"

The train roared in. There was to be only an instant's stop for this one passenger. Even before it quite stopped the porter let down the steps, swung off and seized the bags. Howard got aboard, turning to wave to Ken. Both boys were lightened of their distress, their faces were flushed with love and happiness. Ken saluted smartly.

"Hi, Cadet!" he yelled. "Good luck!" There was a broad grin on his face.

The conductor waved his arm, the train picked up speed and Howard vanished from view as the steps and door clanged shut.

Ken stood proudly at attention until the train was just a speck in the distance, and then, when he walked to the car, he remembered the West Point walk, as his father had now and then showed it to them, and tried to walk the West Point walk.

NELL was watching the time. She knew at what hour that train was taking her boy away from her, and without a goodbye. Without the little lecture which he had asked for. To fail him like this!

She asked her nurse for writing paper and pencil. She was supposed to keep very quiet and she had to insist that if she were not allowed to write the letter it would make her more nervous than if she did it and got it off her mind.

She sat up against her pillows, drew up her knees, and placed the writing pad against them.

She was feeling completely at peace. Whatever the awful fate was that had been threatening her, it was over now. It had struck her and done its worst and she was safe from it.

Moreover, it was a relief to know that there had been a reason for all her emotional storms and for the feeling of choking and the dreams and premonitions—just an enlarged thyroid gland that was growing inward and pressing on the windpipe. One of the goiters that grow in high altitudes where there is little iodine in the soil and water. If she had only had a check-up long ago. But no, this was better. To have gone right through the thing, the horror, the death . . . and out on the other side — her thoughts jammed a moment . . . Oh, Pilgrim! . . . then went on—and then to have this long, blissful rest in the hospital, knowing that she was under treatment that would cure her, that she would go back to the ranch feeling quite different, and begin again.

Ken . . . Carey . . . how would things go with them? She smiled, holding her pencil, her eyes staring at nothing. It didn't matter. They would get on without her. Things would work out. Howard—he was the one to think about now, the boy who was going away from home for good, and who had asked her to teach him more about God.

But she hesitated to begin. Should she write him this that she had in mind? Was it really suitable for him? She had to think back and remember how young she had been when she, too, had wondered about God, everything about Him, and had wanted to know and understand. Young people, children, have to know about God. That is when it is most important of all. They have to start out in life right. They have to start out, companioned by God—not alone. Besides, who knows, one of her boys might decide to be a clergyman!

At this thought, Nell put down her pencil and looked out the window.

Her father's grandfather had been the pastor of a little country parish. He had eked out his salary by farming and claimed that he got the inspiration for his fine sermons walking behind his plow. He believed that spirituality grew naturally out of the soil. The prophets of the Old Testament, the great preachers and poets, they were shepherds and farmers. They were close to the earth, and from the earth came their vision.

Her boys then, they, too, should have poetry and vision and spirituality, having lived as they had done, protected from artificiality, close to the earth, to the storms, to the skies, and to the simplicity and the passion and the obedience of the animals. Faith should be natural to them. They should, spontaneously, lean toward God.

If one of them chose to be a clergyman would it be Howard or Ken? Howard seemed to have the cool, speculative mind-was it that which made him interested in these talks on religion, or was it the deep sense of personal need? He was so secretive—it would be hard to know. At any rate then, sow the seed.

She put her pencil to the paper and began to write.

July 2nd, In hospital.

Hello darling!

You've got away from me! But not away from my thoughts nor my pen. And I haven't forgotten that we didn't have a proper goodbye and that we have not had our talk about the love of God.

I feel that I had made an engagement with you, to tell you of my thoughts on this subject, and I don't like to break engagements. This letter will be the little lecture you asked for. I will write you many more letters, but first to get this one off my mind-

This is an ambitious subject for me to tackle. St. Francis de Sales wrote a Treatise on the Love of God and it is about six hundred pages long, if I remember rightly, and very fine print! I won't ask you to read that. I'll just send you my own ideas on the subject, quite simple, almost infantile, and hope that they will make sense to you, and that they will open a door for you.

The term "the love of God" is used so much. It is spoken of as if it should be taken for granted. Children are told. "If you loved God you wouldn't do that." The child never seems to have the sense to answer, "But I don't love Him. I don't know Him. I don't want Him or ever think about Him." Which would often be the truth. Also, it seems to be taken for granted in most sermons, that of course every Christian, every religious person has a true love of God in his heart. But this is not so. I think it is one of the rarest things in the world, one of the greatest gifts, really the pearl of great price. So I always say in my mind most urgently to the preachers, "Well, now, give us a sermon about the Love of God. How can you get it? Where is it to be found? But I don't think I have ever heard a sermon about just that one thing (which is not to say that they have not been preached).

So the upshot is that I have done a great deal of thinking about it myself, trying to find out how that beautiful flame can be lit within the human

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heart. I have traced love, any kind of love, back to its beginnings, or tried to, and it seems to me I have found out a good deal about it.

To begin with-just one more word about the way LOVE bestows happiness. When you come to think of it, there is nothing that bestows happiness except love. Love is implicit in all praise, in admiration. You know how, in yourself, when you see some glorious thing, a sunset, or a beautiful face, or some of those exquisite scenes of nature that you now and then come upon, a great tide of praise, love and happiness rises in your heart until it seems that it will burst, and tears push up behind your eyes! Or perhaps it is the grandeur of a symphony. Or perhaps it is great courage or a noble, unselfish deed-and again that bursting love fills the heart. This can be traced down to the smallest thing. Imagine a young girl, about to go to her coming-out party. She sees her dress lying on the bed, clasps her hands (a classic attitude of praise and love!) and stands there in a trance of happiness. Or, a gathering of friends. Analyze your warm, happy feeling. You may call it good cheer, geniality, hospitality. These are other names for

And so I say that it is love that gives us all our happiness, and if only we could find some way to kindle it to a great flame in ourselves, which would never wane or die, and for some One who could never disappoint or abandon us, we could ask nothing more. We would be just bursting with happiness all the time.

This great happiness is what the Saints have, and is why they are Saints. This happiness is what the mystics have.

So now, back to our search—how to get it?

Well then, look at love. Wherever you see it (and you see it nearly everywhere) trace it to its beginnings. What started it?

Let's take a very simple example. Penny, when she sees me the first thing in the morning. Or the puppies. They almost burst with love. Where do they get it? Where does Penny get it?

Well, Penny needs me. Penny is helpless without me. From the mother a baby gets security, food, warmth, tenderness, companionship and a thousand gifts that change and increase as the infant gets larger and needs more.

So first there is need.

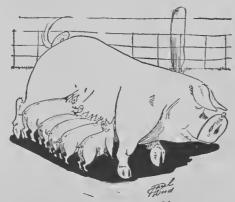
Now what next? Second, I should say, the recognition of the source of good. It isn't long before the infant knows that all these things come from its mother. And what next? Gratitude. And here we have love, the full cup running over.

There one sees the evolution of love. First NEED, then RECOGNITION OF THE SOURCE OF GOOD (I wish I could find one word for that—perhaps you can) and then GRATITUDE.

I think there is no love in the world that does not begin with those things.

The love of friends? Of course. The need, the recognition of that particular person as the friend, and then the gratitude.

The love of men and women? First, their great and permanent need, then the recognition of each other as possessors of all the gifts that could fill



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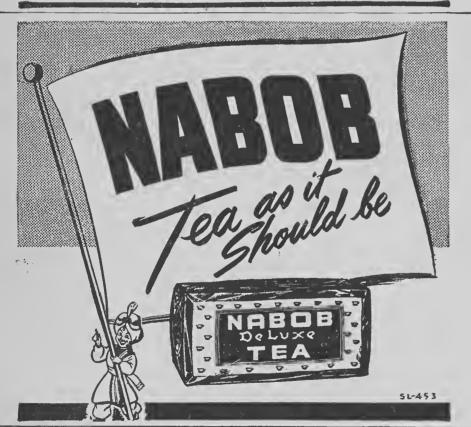
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that need, then, if the gifts are bestowed—the great gratitude.

The love of God? First we find out how much we need Him. I think that a person who does not find that out, who is incapable of finding that out, who is always smug and self-sufficient, can never win this great happiness.

Then, needing Him, we grope around perhaps for years to find the source of good. And at last we do. Probably someone tells us, tells us in a way that we can accept and understand. The torch is lit from one hand to the other, and has been all down through the ages. We know where our good is and we turn away from the things of the world (or at least we know that they are not of final power and importance) to God, and our "hearts burn within us" and we know that He is with us, always has been, always will be, and we are filled with gratitude and we are. so happy we could die.

This second step in the process I suppose is a miracle. It is a gift. It comes to some and not to others. I suppose it comes to those who need the most, who seek the most persistently. It takes thinking about. It might seem that there are many good things which do not come from God-the girl's pretty dress, the good dinner, material belongings which are bought, or achievements which are earned, but this is looking at it in a small way. The nobility of human character, heroism, courage, unselfishness, steadfastness, conscience above all-that inexplicable determination in man to lift himself up from his lower nature and

live on the highest level he is capable of (and to this force can be traced all man's progress of whatever sort)-it is obvious that these come from God. And we are grateful for them. Try to imagine what life on this planet would be like if man had no conscience. Try to imagine it without beauty. Try to imagine the physical universe without order, plan, design.

F you think of things like that, Howard, perhaps, suddenly, your heart will "burn within you" and you will know that the flame of the love of God has been lit because you have recognized Him as the source of good.

Once you have the love of God it spills over onto everything, and your heart and your life and your world are full of love and therefore full of happiness.

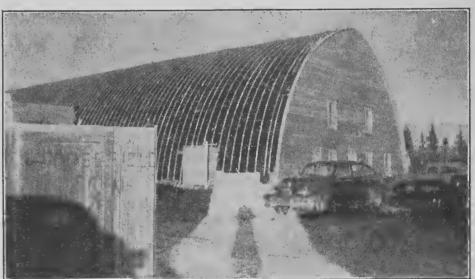
Now, my dear boy, write me the moment you have any spare time. I will write you again soon, something of less exalted nature.

I am feeling better already. Much love to the Cadet.

And while Nell finished her letter, handed it to the nurse to mail and then lay back on her pillow, exhausted Howard was sitting in the Pullman car, flooded with intense happiness, wondering in a dazed way how and why that sudden rush of brotherly love, that quick and ardent embrace and the glimpse of Ken's salute and laughter, had swept all the misery from his heart. To be Continued

(Copyright, 1946, by MARY O'HARA)

A Community Project By Rev. J. V. HOWEY



The curling rink built at Crossfield, Alta., by "Shirtsleeves" co-operation.

OR more than 20 years Crossfield curlers used a rink which in later years had a roof that reminded one of the sieves we used to use on the old fanning mill. During the war a fund was established looking forward to the erection of a new building. After hostilities were over interest increased and a canvass indicated that a start in construction was warranted. The old rink was sold and torn down, so that the building drive had to sucdeed or the curlers would be without a home for their sport.

Committees were appointed. Lumber was hauled from far west of Olds, and sawdust from Water Valley. Believe it or not 15 tons were hauled in four loads. One load was so heavy at the rear that the front of the truck was lifted clear of the road. It was necessary for several men to ride on the front bumper for the driver to be able to steer the truck and reach his destination. Other supplies were obtained and volunteers called for. The response for volunteer labor was so good that by mid-December the ice was in and the roaring game was under way.

The building was planned so that it could be used as a community centre. Its dimensions are 52 feet by 176 feet, with a downstairs waiting room 24 feet by 48 feet, and an upstairs one

24 feet by 40 feet. Both rooms are equipped with fluorescent lights, a restaurant has been installed and kind donors have provided easy chairs and

There are three sheets of ice and the structure of the building is such that there are no pillars to obstruct the view. The difficulty of getting suitable roofing made it necessary to cover the sheeting with tar-paper for the first winter, but it is now covered with prepared roofing.

The rafters were made of shaped boards six feet long and nailed together five thick. They were made in halves and joined together by two planks at the ridge. The rafters are eight feet apart and have two-by-four cross braces at intervals of two feet. The sheeting is put on at an angle of about forty-five degrees.

A pump-house extends from the side of the building covering an excellent well which can supply both the curling rink and the skating rink which lies alongside.

The usual events of a curling season have been enjoyed much more last winter because of the new building. The community idea is also taking shape for already several meetings and social events have taken place in either of the waiting-rooms.

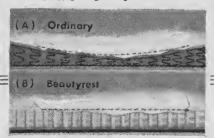


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We Built Our Own Line

Farmers north of Big River wanted a telephone line, and they were not content to accept reasons for further delay

By C. E. CRADDOCK

TES, and it works. But let us start at the beginning. At the end of steel on the Canadian National Railways, running out of Prince Albert, is the village of Big River, famous for its lumber, fish and furs. Settlement is somewhat scanty and farms are small compared with those on the prairie. Residents are in many cases, quite isolated.

These are existing conditions along the Big River-Green Lake highway. This is a new highway running north from Big River, circling the northern end of Cowan Lake and thence to Green Lake where it joins the Meadow Lake highway running into the north. The end of settlement on this road is approximately 16 miles from Big River, and that is also the end of our new 'phone" line.

For a number of years the people of this district have been talking "phones," and finally decided to do something about it. A meeting was called and a telephone line to town was discussed. The difficulty of getting wire seemed to be a sticker, so it was agreed to shelve the project for a year.

Not so good! We have got to "do" not "talk," so another meeting was arranged. The gathering was called to order and Jim Hartnett, a prominent farmer of the district, was elected chairman. Mrs. Arno Stuesser, the wife of another young farmer, was elected secretary-treasurer, and has done a mighty fine job together with her husband, who, incidentally, indulges in alfalfa and hogs.

First, we had to know the score. The secretary had to contact the Department of Telephones at Regina for a copy of the regulations; also the Department of Highways for permission to run our line down the highway. We had also to ascertain if we could get connected up with "central," in town. We were required to become incorporated first, and received great co-operation from both departments. There was one question, however, which had discouraged several potential subscribers, and that was: Would it not increase the taxes?

The answer to this was that it was in order to avoid this and other costs that we had decided to build our own line co-operatively as a non-profit effort.

THE ways and means were discussed at some length and the outcome was that each member took out five shares at \$5.00 per share to finance purchase of wire and other expenses. Next: The wire. The Department of Telephones in answer to a request for addresses of telephone companies who were discontinuing business gave us this information, so wire was finally procured from two of these companies.

Insulators? No dice. Unprocurable. So t was decided to use electric fence insulators, attached with a four-inch spike. These work perfectly, are cheaper to buy and easier to attach, but do not drive your spikes right in because some time you may have to pull them out. Leave about one-quarter of an inch outstanding. With a block of wood and a claw hammer the nail can be drawn without breaking the insulator.

Poles? The Department of Natural Resources allows a fifty per cent cut on regular dues for this purpose but even at that we considered the cost a little beyond our means. As a result, each member was required to furnish 35 poles from his or his neighbor's land, or by purchase. The number 35 was the proportionate share of each member for the total number of poles needed. Comparatively small poles were used, generally 20 feet long and a minimum of six inches at the butt, with larger poles for corners and crossings.

When running over trails and roads, a clearance of 16 feet is required and over highways, 18 feet, with railroads, 20 feet. Poles should be treated to pre-

It was agreed that all members should work on the construction of the main line, and each member should finance and build his own branch line, together with his own telephone box. So far, so

NOW for the final drive. Members were divided into groups, and each group allotted so many miles. After seeding we hit the highway. Poles were spaced 50 yards apart and eighteen inches inside the highway margin. Because the poles used were too small to climb we constructed light ladders which were quite satisfactory. To roll out the wire, we made a lumber spool, four feet in diameter with a 12-inch

The receiver was handed to our secretary, she being the only lady present and fully entitled to be the first to telephone a message over our new line. Then the rest of the bunch had to say a few words. This episode was very encouraging, and I feel sure speeded up the work. Yet there was the same thrill as each new telephone was tried out. The boys really did a good job on that line. It was built and working in nine days. Branch lines were built after supper and telephones installed on Sunday.

All we need now is to be connected at central office. Then we can surely "go to town"-or rather not go, because we can 'phone instead.

Ingredients for Margarine

WHENEVER the price of butter goes up the city press revives the idea of replacing a portion of our supplies with margarine. The current price increase, in keeping with advancing prices all along the line has not been lacking in propaganda for a release of the federal government ban.

But it may not be so easy to establish a margarine business in Canada in these times. The Financial Post asks the question, "Where would Canadians



Part of the neighborhood "gang" which built the farm telephone line north of Big River, Sask.

waist. This waist was solidly attached to one disc of the spool, and the other was held by four long bolts right through. The roll of wire was placed over the bolts, the other disc of the spool set down over the bolts and secured. The spool was mounted on a shaft rigged on the back of a truck and by slow travel was laid out along the edge of the highway, being carried over to the foot of the pole line by hand.

Like everything else, getting started was the hardest, but once a beginning was made the job went right along. Stringing the wire was started from the north end, with five miles to the next subscriber and a mile and a half further to the house of our secretary. The two most northerly members had 'phones already in use, having had a private line for many years. So they were ready. Stuessers' was the next port of call. They had already procured a 'phone box, so while the boys were stringing the last half mile to this point, others went ahead and installed the box for our secretary, having the wires leading out all ready to connect up when the line reached that point.

By this time there was interest and excitement. Yes! We must join Stuessers' 'phone up to try it. We simply cannot wait until the whole line is completed! Now the lead in is connected. Let's crank her up. Will she work? Or have we forgotten something? One of the bunch rings up the allotted ring.—No reply!! Rings again. -A voice says. "Is that our ring?" Boy oh boy, did that sound good.

get the necessary ingredients?" in its issue of September 27, and provides some tentative answers.

Animal fats, beef or lard could make up a maximum of about 40 per cent of the spread. To this would have to be added one or more vegetable oils. The most commonly used for this purpose are coconut oil, soybean oil, cottonseed oil, peanut oil, and edible palm oil. The only one of this list grown in Canada is soybean oil, produced in small quantities only, with production limited to western Ontario. Sunflower oil, now making its debut in the West, might become useful. The Post's expert intimates that even if domestically produced vegetable oils may be used as main ingredients, it is likely that at least a small percentage of cottonseed oil will have to be used.

As is well known, there is a worldwide shortage of fats, and exports are under the control of the International Emergency Food Council. It is open to question whether this body would sanction the movement of any of these commodities to a food surplus nation, where the domestic fat ration is many times what it is in hard pressed areas of western Europe. It looks as though we shall have to get along with the help of 'bossy' for a while longer.

No difficulties would be encountered in finding manufacturing plants to carry out the process of making margarine. Most plants now engaged in producing shortening could be adapted to turning out margarine with a minimum of

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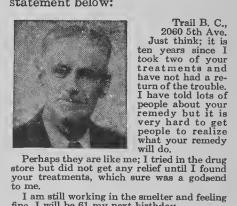
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SUPPOSE I "saw" between 28 and 30 million acres of land this summer, during late June and July. Actually, I travelled about 5,000 miles, largely in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. To anyone starting out on a 5,000-mile trip, it would seem like a long journey, and it would be. Also, the weather was very hot about half the time, and the roads extremely dusty.

In estimating that I "saw" nearly 30 million acres of land on this journey, I mean, of course, all the land I could see, and it seemed fair to believe that perhaps I could see an average of five miles on either side of the road. This would include 50,000 square miles of territory, approximately equivalent to the combined areas of the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Whether this is a lot of country depends on one's point of view. In Britain this area would house 23.5 million people; in Belgium around 35 million; in Canada at the average rate of density for the entire country, only 156,000. Even this substantial area represents only 1.4 per cent of the area of Canada and about nine per cent of the area of Saskatchewan and Alberta. What I did see, perhaps, was an amount equivalent to approximately 30 per cent of the occupied farm land in the two provinces.

have made somewhat a similar trip in each of the last seven years. Each time I am amazed that the country which, to the casual train visitor, is one of somewhat dreary monotony, should, on closer examination, show such wide differences and so many surprises. One should expect variety, of course, in an area nearly 900 miles wide and more than 400 miles from north to south. The element of surprise, however, is partly due to pleasant and unexpected changes in the character of the country, and partly also to the effect of the human element. It is no more surprising, for example to drive for miles through a comparatively level or undulating stretch of country, and suddenly find the road winding for an equal number of miles through barren hills, than it is to find a half-section of land carrying seven or eight miles of trees in the form of shelterbelts, in a country otherwise as flat and treeless as a kitchen table.

Similarly, it is no more surprising to learn that milk is being shipped to a small prairie town in an excellent grain growing area from a city 150 miles. away, than it is to find, within half a mile of the same town, a farm without a well or a chicken on it, which yet has the distinction of being the most striking in appearance, neatness, shelter and arrangement of buildings, gardens and driveways, that one has seen in seven years of this kind of travel.

Indeed, this was no more surprising than to find, 50 miles farther on, still in an area of straight grain production, a farmstead in rolling land, of plain, neat, white-painted buildings arranged strictly for efficiency on a completely mechanized farm and having the appearance of a small village. Also I recalled that ten days earlier I had driven south through a range of hills in Alberta and enquired my way from the owner of a small, undistinguished and unimpressive-looking farmhouse, only to learn later that the same man had returned not long before from spending the winter in California.

I remember picking up one day a young hitch-hiker, who was a student returning to the University Summer School. He came from southeastern Saskatchewan, and as we drove northA Guide Editor wonders anew at the variety of surprises in Prairie Canada By H. S. FRY



ward through the country east of Lacombe, it looked marvellously green, with many good farmsteads and a wealth of tree growth along the highway. He had just come from Banff, where he was working in the Banff Springs Hotel, and as we drove along, his repeated comment was "Boy, I could go for country like this." Ten days later I was heading eastward through a part of Alberta where I was told there had been almost no rain since seeding.

In the third week in June, we had been in Lethbridge. A tour was arranged in connection with the annual convention of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, principally for the delegates from eastern Canada, to whom it was desired to show something of the irrigated, as well as the dry farming and ranching areas north, east and south of Lethbridge. Crops in the dry farming areas looked about as good as those on irrigated land, and easterners at that time were convinced that western Canada would have a bumper harvest in 1947. It was hard to convince them that something might yet happen to substantially reduce the prospective yield. Perhaps they have been reading the newspapers and realize now that the middle of June is no time for jubilation over the crop in western Canada.

THE vagaries of the weatherman have certainly been demonstrated this year. The brown soil area in southern Saskatchewan has a better crop than



much of the black and grey wooded soils, even though the terrific heat in late July had blasted the hopes of many a proud grain grower in the south who watched his crops growing tall and straight and green until mid-July. Some of these surprises of the prairie country are not pleasant. On the other hand, I drove about 200 miles over a period of two days in the territory around Athabaska. I was surprised to learn that in the area covered by the District Agriculturist at Athabaska there are perhaps 500,000 acres of broken and cultivated land. Very little of this is seen from the highway running north from Edmonton to the Peace River country.

I do not know what surprises me more, to see an unusually well-established and neat farmstead, well sheltered by trees and with well-painted buildings, or to find a well-built house and barn, located on the top of a prominent knoll, and as naked of trees, shrubs, flowers or any sign of a garden as a new-born babe. I am not sure, however, that such an experience is more surprising than one which came my way one evening when I dropped into a farmyard about six o'clock to enquire about an especially good-looking field nearby. As I entered by one roadway, a young man drove a tractor in by another. When I got out of the car to make my enquiry, I saw with surprise that the tractor was equipped with a radio and the music was very pleasant. Later I ran across several other instances of similarly modern farm practice.

THIS reminds me that as I went on this particular road, I wondered at its excellence. Indeed, this piece of highway running north and south through Delbourne, Alberta, was one of the best half dozen stretches of road encountered in all of my travel this year. The individual in charge of maintenance must know his job, which is more than can be said for maintenance men on many other roads in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

I think something ought to be said about many of the roads in Saskatchewan, for what it may be worth. I have noticed for years that it seems to be characteristic of many of the gravelled highways in that province, that the gravel used is not only too coarse for satisfactory driving, but is used far too plentifully. My experience has been that the best gravel roads are not found where wide, high piles of gravel run for miles along a highway, tempting the road maintainers to use it with careless generosity. Nothing but reduced mileage per gallon, excessive wear on tires and irritation to drivers can result from the necessity of driving through two inches of fresh gravel. The use of coarse gravel may perhaps be a necessity, but this cannot be true of too much gravel. As far as my experience goes, I find that the best gravel roads are to be found where there is a small ridge of gravel running along the side of the road, from which the grader pinches off a little at a time and distributes it evenly and carefully over the surface.

One is surprised, nevertheless, at the number and extent of gravelled roads in both provinces. Gravel is being extended in many places to roads that were, only a few years ago, dangerous in unsettled weather. This is all to the good, and while it is very noticeable and satisfactory to those of us who occasionally make long trips through rural western Canada, it is particularly desirable for those who live in these areas and are entitled to good access to town or to main highways.

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around, and is broken by the one job-that of pre-

for the grain farmer. Does the comparative leisure

between those two periods compensate for the long

hours, the terrific drive of energy which come then?

Harvesting operations often coincide with the farm

wife's extra busy time of canning, making jams and

pickles and storage of winter vegetables. Besides that

she may have to take on small jobs about the place,

outfit. That may be a development which will come

Seed time and harvest are the two rush seasons

The Countrywoman

A Plain Observation By MAUD LUDINGTON CAIN

A woman's heart is sometimes made serene In deep anxiety and galling cares By tidying a room or scrubbing clean The kitchen woodwork or the basement stairs, And tears have dried with clothes hung on a line.

A worry that has seemed too great to bear, Has cleared a bit in making windows shine Or brushing new paint on a well-worn chair . . . I can not say if fault or virtue show In this—I only know that it is so.

Farewell

By GILEAN DOUGLAS

Come close to me, my rivers and my pines, For I am going Where man has harrowed beauty with his blind And bitter sowing.

Come close to me, my mountains and my stars, Close to my weeping, For I shall know the tree stump and the stone

Regarding the Machine

HE throb of the motor is heard throughout the land in these days of modern farming. It drives the engine or the machine which does the work of many hands. It lifts the load, turns the wheel in the workshop, operates the pump or drives the tractor in the field. By its power, the automobile carries members of the family over distances required to be travelled for the purposes of

work or pleasure. Inside the house, it supplies light and makes possible many efficient labor-saving aids such as the power washer, churn or cream separator. Its uses increase with each passing year. Slowly but steadily more and more farm people are making use of it.

And barren reaping.

The motor has become so commonplace that we seldom pause to think about the revolution it is bringing in the lives of men, women and children on Canadian farms today. Recently in visiting on a Manitoba farm, I remarked that whenever I stepped out-of-doors, I heard from somewhere the hum of a motor or the chugging of an engine. We stopped to count the number of motors employed on that farm and on the adjoining one, operated by my host's brother. We counted 13 motors in either workshop, at the pumps or power plant, in truck, tractor or automobile. We were a bit amazed to discover how complete had been the change-over to motor power on those two farms. The large barns were almost empty of horses, just a few remaining for odd jobs about the place or to provide emergency winter drivers. The neighboring one-room rural school was closed so the children of the two families

were driven each day four miles to the nearest town. When the family wished to attend church, they went to the town church.

In the fields, on that autumn day, the farmer and two young members of his family were busy with tractor and combine, doing the work that would have required a good-sized crew of able men as well as several teams of horses, say 20 years ago. And they were doing the work faster. Remembering the "old days" and the arrival of the threshing engine, grain separator, the large crew of men and the many team outfits needed for hauling water, sheaves and grain, one is lost in admiration and astonishment at the efficiency of the combine.

But if the machine is proving to be a good servant to the farmer, it also has become somewhat of a harsh taskmaster. In the first place its purchase requires a considerable outlay of capital. The expense of its upkeep induces the farmer to expand his operations. Constant argument may be heard about the "cconomic area required for tractor and combine

We ask for views of women about changes in home and community life, resulting from farm mechanization

By AMY J. ROE

operation." Then too, not having to consider the welfare of animals employed for plowing, seeding and harvesting, the farmer or his son may work unreasonably long hours, even to the point of endangering health or risking accidents, due to fatigue. Definitely the machine has altered the pattern of the farmer's life just as it has altered the pattern of life and the thinking of the industrial worker in the city. But make no mistake. The machine is here to stay.

SOME men, fascinated by machinery cannot resist buying the last gadget, the latest model and may give preference to these things over others which he and his family need for a good life on the farm. It may drain off money, which should rightly go into better housing, more comforts and advantages for the family during the years they count the most. One hears disquieting rumors of new types of "soil miners" and "gypsy farmers," those who are out to get everything possible out of the land in a few years and then retire to town to live. One hears of some farm families who move on to the farm during the seeding and harvesting, lead an almost camp-like existence and for the remainder of the year, live in a city or town. This appears to be a trend in purely grain-growing areas. That tendency will serve to still further overcrowd urban centres and rob the country of the interest and contribution of many fine people.

What changes the mechanization of farming is

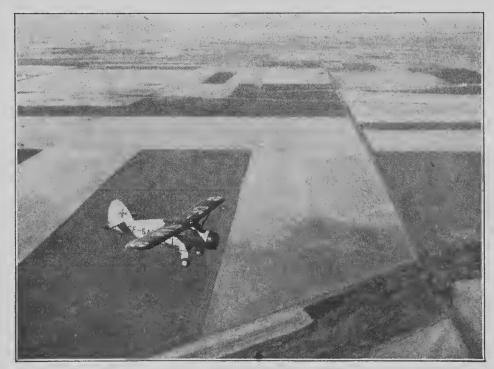
which the men ordinarily do but have not time for in rush seasons. How does she manage in these days, when there is an almost total lack of domestic help? No doubt some farm women have worked out a satisfactory routine for themselves and their family. Others possibly are still struggling with the problem and may be a bit dismayed and confused about it. One woman told me, that instead of taking lunch to the men in the harvest field at four o'clock, she asked that they come into the house for a hearty meal at 5.30. After a rest and the meal the men then went back to the field and worked until after dark fell. When they came in at the end of the day, they had a lunch before going to bed and slept the better for not going to bed just after having eaten a heavy meal, when greatly fatigued. COMBINE and tractor operations, even on a large scale where one or more outfits handle the work on a number of farms, do not seem to have reached a stage where a cook car and crew accompany the

in the future.

paring and serving food?

But quite apart from the business of feeding busy men, who attend tireless machines, there are other wider and bigger questions about mechanized farming which are of direct concern to farm women. It is possible with the quick transportation of tractor and automobile, for a family to live in a village or town and for the men to go a distance to their work. If many do that, what is the effect on the local school, the country church and the social life in the community? Is an appreciable number of farm people buying or renting houses in nearby towns and cities?

So we take pleasure in extending an invitation to women readers of The Country Guide to write a letter setting forth ideas which they may have on this subject. 'Tell us the size of your farm, its distance from the town and give your personal views on any of the points raised on this page. Keep your letter short and confine remarks to your own experience or actual observations. Those accepted for publication will be paid for as regular contributions. All letters should be addressed in care of the Countrywoman, and will be considered if received not later than December 10, 1947.



An ambulance plane in flight over Saskatchewan farmlands, near Regina.

making needs close and careful study in relation to its ultimate effect on country life. What will it mean to community living, our churches, schools and roads? Does the larger farm unit mean greater isolation for the few who remain on the land? Does the farmer who invests heavily in machinery, study seriously with his wife the economics of the machine and examine the goals which they hope to reach by making their home on a farm?

From the Woman's Viewpoint

T would be interesting to learn what woman is thinking about the changes which come with the mechanization of farming. It is quite an easy matter to collect statistics on the number of tractors and combines in use. It is quite another matter to find out how the individual home is affected, how the routine work of the household has changed and what effect these changes are having on the community in which those homes are located.

Safety on the Highway

Since the days are getting shorter and darkness comes earlier, take special care when you walk along country roads at dusk. Records show that during the early fall and winter months 100 pedestrians are killed in the three hours immediately after sunset for every 24 killed during the three hours just preceding. Early evening is not only the hour of heavy automobile traffic, it is also the time when motorists have the greatest difficulty in seeing. To protect yourself, follow these simple rules: 1. Walk on the extreme left side of the road, so that you can see oncoming traffic. 2. Walk on the shoulder of the road. 3. Be alert for cars coming in either direction. 4. Look carefully for approaching traffic before you start to cross the road. If it is necessary for children to travel on errands on roads during this time, see that they wear white or light colored cap or sweater or carry a lantern or reflector so that they may easily be seen by a motorist.



of orange colored paper

five by ten inches, creased

in two to make a folder.

Stickers of black cats, witches or jack

o'lanterns may be pasted to them to

Hallowe'en party the guests will come

in costume. After all, who could pos-

sibly be dignified and formal when dress-

ed in some ridiculous get-up? A party

sure to be full of fun is one where the

men come dressed like little boys in short

pants and bows at their necks. The

ladies come as little girls with bows in

their hair and ringlets, and dresses sug-

gestive of juvenile garb. It could be re-

quested that dolls be carried. Another

laugh provider is where the men are

asked to dress like women and the

women as men. This type of costume is

easy to find and requires no expense on

the part of the guests, and yet it is

one of the most amusing of all. Of

course the "gentlemen" will carry out

the theme through the evening and

wait on the "ladies" and see to their

comfort. Other costume parties such as

an old-time party, an historical party

where everyone dresses as some famous

person from history books, or a hard

time party are popular and full of life.

A miscellaneous costume party is good,

and everyone may choose his own

costume. Prizes may be presented for

As is naturally expected of every

give the Hallowe'en touch.

'ALLOWE'EN comes at a time of year when the harvesting is all done and everyone is ready for one last fling before winter sets in. The sharp frost in the air and the smell of burning leaves are ideal backgrounds for the old-fashioned idea of a Hallowe'en party. This is one type of entertainment where the formality and dignity of age may be cast aside and both young and old relax and have a good time.

Invitations should summon the guests in a manner suiting the occasion. All sorts of novel ideas for invitations may be used and different verses printed or written on them. Writing the invitations on a jack o'lantern cut out of orange paper is attractive and will give a thrill of anticipation to the receiver. The top part of the lantern may be pulled up like the cap on the pumpkin and the words written there. Other ideas for invitations could be cutting cats out of folded black paper with the instructions written inside, or witch shapes and ghosts from different colored papers. If there are a large number of people going to be invited the invitations could be written on a sheet

the best men's and women's costumes of the party.

Whether the party is to be held in a hall or in a private home, decorations are the important thing to create the proper atmosphere. Here is one place where novelty and variety may be practiced to the extreme. If autumn leaves are still available use them lavishly about the rooms. Place the leaves and branches around the room in attractive places, with a sprig here and there around a picture or in a vase. Corn stalks are another free but attractive decoration, and are ideal in the corners of the room, and around the fireplace. Squash and of course the traditional pumpkins may be placed profusely at the base of the corn. If the room is large the addition of a fullsized scarecrow made from stuffed old clothes and with poles for arms and a pumpkin for a head, would find a suitable place in among the corn and pumpkins.

Mystery and creepiness are created by hanging grey crepe paper moss from bare branches in some dark corner. The crepe paper moss is made by cutting strips of the paper and wrinkling it and hanging it from the branches. Bats cut out of black paper may be entwined in the moss. If there are plenty of willing hands ready to make decorations set them to work on making a spider web and spider. String of a silver tint or ordinary string may be cut and tied into a web and hung in a dark corner. The spider may be made from black material or paper and hung in the middle of the web. He will look even more formidable if both he and his web are sprinkled with a dust, which is really talcum powder. Having the web and the spider across the ceiling is also effective.

THE house should be dimly lit, or as dark as possible to create a ghostly air when the guests arrive. Instead of a bell at the door or knocking have a box of Hallowe'en horns at the door with the directions that they should be blown for admission. Each guest will keep the horn he used. Jack o'lantern pumpkins placed in each window could leer at the guests as they approach.

When the guests announce their arrival open the door slowly and if pos-

sible have it squeak like the creaking of ancient hinges. The pers opens the door could stand back of it in the darkened hall, and extend an airfilled, cold, wet rubber glove for the guests to shake hands with. This will be greeted with squeals from

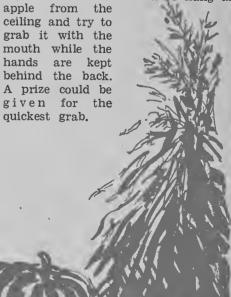
the guests. The guests are then led up darkened stairs one at a time to the room where they will leave their wraps. In an especially dark place a wet towel could be suspended to catch the unwary in the face as they pass.

The initiation service will now take place with the guests blindfolded and seated on hard chairs. Into each open mouth a cold damp length of cooked spaghetti or macaroni is dropped with the directions "swallow fast." Into each outstretched hand a "witches finger" is placed, which is in reality a long cold strip of raw liver. The guests are then taken down in silence to the room where the party is to take place, and the blindfolds removed. They will be relieved and overjoyed to see their fellow guests, and will have a few laughs telling their experiences.

The entertainment part of the party needs to be well planned so that there will be no dull moment in the evening. It is a common superstition that the fates of people for the following year are decided on Hallowe'en night and so there must be fortune telling. In a dark corner or in a small room, place a huge witches' cauldron over an imitation fire made by crushing orange crepe paper and placing it among some kindling and sticks. The cauldron may be any large black pot and can be hung from a tripod of sticks. The guests may select from the pot their fortunes written on pieces of paper, which have been prepared beforehand.

Besides the fortune there could be a stunt written on each slip of paper and these are numbered. Each guest is later called by number to perform his stunt for the group, and it is funny to see some costumed adult howling like a dog at the moon, or riding around the room on a broom like a witch while holding his left ankle with his right hand. The funnier and more ridiculous the stunts, the gayer the event will be. Fun for children and adults, who for

the night are reverting to their younger days, is the time-honored Hallowe'en practice of ducking for apples. The apples are set to bobbing in a large tub of water and the fun begins. In order to spare the hair and costumes of the older guests, they could try to pierce tne apple with a fork instead of ducking for it. It is also fun to hang an





For a smaller party it is a break from the more strenuous activity for the guests to sit around and relate their favorite superstitions. These may have a time limit attached to them, so that no one will take too long. It is amazing and interesting to learn of the superstitions of others, and very fitting to this type of party. If there are two or three good story-tellers in the group have them vie with each other on telling a good ghost story. The other guests will enjoy hearing these tales. This contest could either be on the spur of the moment, or the chosen guests could be told a day or two before the party and have a good tale ready.

Cards or bridge with a Hallowe'en touch could fill out the remainder of the evening for the grown-ups. Of course novelty has to be kept, and the bridge table covers may be black paper with orange pumpkins and witches here and there. The tallys in black or orange may be bought or made.

Children's parties may follow the same ideas as the adults', with a few more games to play. Give each child a piece of black or orange paper and then have a contest to see who can tear out the best jack o'lantern in a certain length of time, using his fingers only. Some candy in a paper pumpkin would be a suitable prize. Another contest to delight children is to have a "gullible ghost's" test. Cut a number of twoyard lengths of twine and string a large gum drop on each. Be sure the gum drop is exactly in the middle of the string. A sign to start is given and with their hands behind their backs the children, one on each end of the string, start chewing. The one to reach the gum drop first is the victor.

A NOTHER game which will add fun to the party for children is to have a Bogus Ride. All kinds of queer obstacles are scattered over the floor, glasses of water, a pumpkin or two, banana peel and other dangerous articles. The chosen leader explains that three Bogus Riders are to follow him, mounted on broomsticks and they must not touch the obstacles on the floor. The actual ride is to be taken blindfolded, but a trial trip is made with the traveller's eyes open. If broomsticks are not available use canes. Carefully the first ride is taken with the leader explaining the pitfalls as he goes. Now blindfold the three and send them out on their perilous journey. Give a starting signal after the rest of the group has quietly removed everything from the floor. Watch the high stepping to avoid the banana peel and glass of water that they imagine are still on the floor.

The refreshments will come as a delightful surprise to your guests if the table is decorated with Hallowe'en witches and pumpkins. The centrepiece could be a huge pumpkin with grinning mouth and eyes and lighted from the inside with a candle. Around him could be little witches made from putting long black dresses on ordinary clothes pins. The top of the clothes pin could be painted like a face, and a tall pointed witches' cap top her costume. Little brooms made from small sticks of wood on the end of which have been fastened some dry straw, could be tucked under her arm

Guests will be delighted to find place cards, made of oranges with faces painted on them in black, looking like little pumpkins. To the top of each orange is pinned the name of each guest. The oranges are kept as favors of course, and the children will be especially glad to save them to eat-later.

The food should be as delicious as at any other party, and within reason should follow out the theme. Chocolate devil's food cake is a favorite and the dark chocolate color is in keeping with Hallowe'en. Marble cake is also good, where the dark chocolate mingles with the golden white cake.

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tor regularly. But in this Borderline Anemia, take Ironized Yeast Tablets to help build up your blood. Take them to start your energy shifting back into "high"-to help restore your natural color! Take them so you really can enjoy life again!

* A mild anemia due to a nutritional deficiency of iron.





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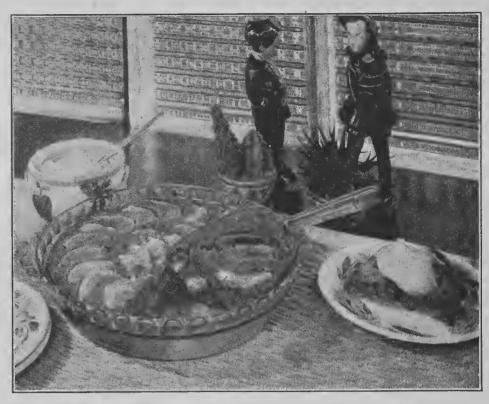




OGILVIE FLOUR

The Popular Apple

Make full use of this delicious Canadian fruit in the fall and winter



Apple graham cake is a great favorite served plain or with whipped cream.

HIS year the apple crop has been bountiful and the stores and markets will be well supplied with this delicious Canadian fruit. One of the greatest advantages of apples is that they are one of the few fresh fruits which the Canadian housewife is able to serve throughout the winter. They are also very versatile and many recipes which use apples are available to help vary the winter menus.

Apples are very useful in salads. Because they turn dark on exposure to the air, mix the salad dressing with the diced apples as soon as they are cut. This will help keep the fruit light in color. The other salad ingredients may be added before serving.

Apples are nutritious and contain important amounts of minerals and vitamins. Most of the vitamin C is contained in the skin, therefore eating apples unpeeled and using unpeeled apples for salads will give the full benefit of the fruit. Besides supplying some necessary food elements raw apples provide exercise for the teeth and gums, and help digestion.

Apple Snow

Pare, quarter, and core 4 sour apples, steam till tender and rub through a sieve. There should be 34 cup of pulp. Beat the whites of three eggs stiff, add gradually the apple pulp which has been sweetened to taste and continue beating. When all is added and thoroughly mixed, pile lightly on a dish and chill. Serve with cream or custard sauce.

Panned Baked Apples

Core and cut apples into eighths. Put a layer in a baking dish, sprinkle with two tablespoons of sugar, add another layer of apples and continue till the dish is full. Add to each quart of apples 1 cup of water; cover the dish and bake in a quick oven until soft. The skin, which is left on, gives a fine flavor. Serve hot.

Apple Graham Cracker Cake (Illustration)

1/2 c. milk

3 T. butter c. sugar eggs. separated ½ tsp. baking $2\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. powder

1/8 tsp. salt

1 tsp vanilla 2 c. sliced apples 2 T. melted butter 3 T. sugar 2 c. graham cracker crumbs, crushed 1 tsp. cinnamon 1 c. sweetened whipvery fine. ped cream

Cream butter and sugar; add yolks and beat thoroughly. Combine graham cracker crumbs, baking powder and salt; add alternately with the milk and vanilla extract to the other ingredients, stirring until well blended. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry; fold lightly into the cake mixture. Pour half of the cake mixture into a well greased pie pan; cover with one cup of sliced apples. Pour the remainder of the mixture over the apples; arrange the other cup of sliced apples over the top of the cake and cover with the melted butter. Mix together the cinnamon and sugar and sprinkle over the apples. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.) about 45 minutes or until the apples are tender. Serve warm and with whipped cream. Serves 6 to 8.

Apple Meringue

1 tsp. butter (melted) 1/2 tsp. cinnamon or 2 eggs 2 c. apple sauce (no sugar)
3½ T. sugar
Salt nutmeg. 1 T. thick cream

Separate the yolks from the whites of the eggs. Beat the yolks of the eggs slightly, add two tablespoons of the sugar, cinnamon and a little salt; then add one tablespoon of thick cream; blend thoroughly and add the apple sauce. Butter a deep pie tin, turn in the apple mixture and bake like a custard, making a meringue for the top with the whites of the eggs and remaining 1½ tablespoons of sugar; brown in the oven. Serve hot or cold.

Apple Sponge Pudding

Slice six apples into a buttered pudding dish, pour over them the following batter:

1 \(\text{\Gamma} \). butter \(\frac{1}{2} \) c. sugar \(2 \) eggs \(\frac{2}{3} \) c. sweet milk 2 c. flour 3 tsp. baking powder 1/8 tsp. salt Spice or flavoring

Bake in a moderate oven and serve with cream or sauce.

Apple Dumplings

1 c. flour 1/4 tsp. salt 1/5 c. milk 1/2 c. sugar 2 tsp. baking powder 2 T. shortening 4 apples Cinnamon

Mix and sift the flour, baking powder and salt. Cut or rub in the shortening, add the milk, mixing to a soft dough. Roll on a well-floured board to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thickness. Wipe, pare and core apples. Cut dough in squares, place apple in centre of square and fill the centre with sugar and cinnamon. Moisten edge of dough. Draw dough up around apple to cover. Pierce with fork to allow steam to escape. Steam or bake until apple is tender. Serve with sugar and cream or lemon sauce.

Apple Mincemeat for Pies

1½ qts. sliced green 2 T. ground spice tomatoes 2 c. chopped tart 1 chopped orange 3 c. brown sugar

apples 1 lb. raisins

Sprinkle tomatoes with salt and let stand overnight; then drain and chop fine. Add apples and orange; simmer 2 hours, then add remaining ingredients and simmer 1 hour.



You can save precious time, selecting and preparing vegetables, when you cook with Heinz Soups. And because they're pre-cooked they save you fuel, too. Simply open a tin of Heinz Vegetable Soup and you have a wide variety of garden-fresh vegetables ready to use. Try these recipes soon!

SHEPHERD'S PIE

Saute 3 tablespoons diced onion and 3 tablespoons diced green pepper in 2 tablespoons mild flavoured dripping or butter until tender. Add ½ pound raw ground beef or 1 cup cooked ground beef, and brown. If raw meat is used, cook thoroughly. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add 1,10-ounce can Heinz Condensed Vegetable Soup, undiluted, and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Place in baking dish and top with 1 cup mashed potatoes. Bake in a hot oven (400°F.) for 20 minutes or until potatoes are well browned. Serves 4.

BEEF STEW

Saute 1 small onion, diced, and 2 tablespoons diced green pepper, in 2 tablespoons fat. Add 1/2 pound raw beef, diced, or 1 cup diced left-over meat, and brown, cooking thoroughly if raw meat is used. Add 1, 10-ounce can Heinz Condensed Vegetable Soup, 1 cup water, ½ teaspoon salt and dash of cayenne pepper and simmer until thoroughly heated. Serve as stew or as a sauce over toast triangles. Serves 3.



Hearty Cream Soups Frosty days demand flavorful soups

OR those fall days when appetites are keen, and through the cold weather to follow, hearty cream soups will be a welcome main dish for luncheon or supper. Full of energygiving food values they are also ways for the mother or homemaker to add extra milk, meat and vegetables to the family diet.

Along with the soup an attractive garnish adds appetite appeal. Croutons, which are small squares of bread lightly buttered and toasted in the oven, are just the thing to sprinkle on top of a thick cream soup. Crisp crackers are also an old favorite. Minced chopped parsley lightly spread on the top of the soup adds a colorful touch.

Potato Cream Soup

2c. peeled. sliced.
white potatoes
% c. minced celery tops
2 tsp. minced parsley
½ peeled onion,
sliced 1 c. boiling water 2 c. hot milk ½ tsp. salt Few grains pepper 2 tsp. flour 2 tsp. butter

Combine the potatoes, celery, parsley and onion in a medium-sized kettle and add the boiling water. Cook covered until the potatoes are tender (about 15 minutes) then rub through a sieve, saving the potato water. Add the milk; bring to scalding point and add the salt and pepper. Blend the flour and butter. When creamy, add a little of the hot soup to mix it well; then stir this into the scalding soup and cook and stir until boiling point is reached. Garnish with fried onions, and serve with crisp crackers.

Cream of Lima Bean Soup

1 c. dried lima beans
1 c. medium white
sauce (made with
2 T. butter, 2 T.
flour, 1 c. milk,
and 1/4 tsp. salt)

3 c. milk
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. grated onion
1 tsp. grated carro
if desired carrot,

Soak the lima beans over night in enough water to cover them. The next morning, put them through a food chopper and then cook them until they are soft in the water in which they were soaked. Scald the milk, add the salt and combine it with the white sauce. Add the chopped lima beans and the onion, and cook the mixture in a double boiler for 10 or 15 minutes before serving.

Cream of Corn Soup

1 pt. of canned corn 1 qt. rich milk 2 T. flour 2 T. butter 1 slice onion ½ tsp. salt Dash of pepper

Cook the corn with the milk and the slice of onion in a double boiler for 30 minutes. Remove the slice of onion. Put the corn through a strainer forcing as much of it through as possible. Melt the butter, add the flour and when smooth stir in the hot mixture of milk and corn puree. Cook together slowly for a few minutes, and serve very hot.

Cheese Soup with Grated Carrot

4 c. milk 2 or 3 slices onion 2 T. butter 2 T. flour 4 T. grated cheese

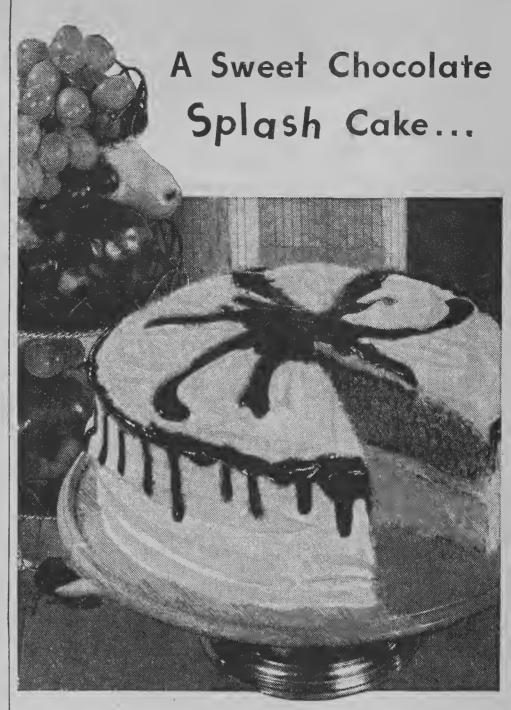
1 tsp. salt Pepper / 1 c. finely grated car-

Grate the carrot and add onion and cook together in the milk for 5 to 10 minutes. Melt the butter in the top part of a double boiler and stir in the flour until smooth. Stir into this the heated milk with carrot and seasonings, and cook in double boiler, stirring constantly, until thick. Then add grated cheese. Heat and serve.

Vegetable Chowder

2 slices salt pork or bacon. or 2 T. butter 1 medium sized diced onion 2 medium sized diced 1 medium sized diced carrot ½ c. diced celery 2 c. milk Salt Pepper

potatoes Cut the bacon or pork in small pieces and brown them; saute the vegetables in the fat for five minutes or until they are light brown. Cover them with boiling water and cook until they are tender. Add hot milk, salt and pepper.



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TASTE-TEMPTER for tangy autumn days! Magic's Chocolate Splash cake is iced with frosty white : . . dripping with melty, mouth-watering chocolate. One chocolate layer and one golden layer . . . a dreamy blend of delectable, tender texture. Tantalizing, appetizing, every mouthful flavor-

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Chocolate Splash Cake

1 1/2 cups sugar 3 eggs 3 cups sifted

cake flaur* 3 tsps. Magic **Baking Powder** 1/2 tsp. sait

1 cup milk

2/3 cup shortening 1 tsp. vanilla extract 1 sq. (1 oz.)

unsweetened chocalate **Bailed Frasting**

1 sq. (1 oz.) semisweetened chocolate

Cream together shortening and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; add alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Add vanilla extract. Melt unsweetened chocolate. Divide cake batter in ½; to ½ add melted chocolate; pour into two 9" greased layer pans. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°F., 30 min., or until done. Cool 5 min. Remove layers from pan; cool on wire rack. Spread frosting between layers and on top and sides of cake. Melt semi-sweetened chocolate; drip on top and sides of cake.

Boiled Frosting

I cup sugar 1/3 cup water 1 teaspaon vinegar

Few grains sait 2 egg whites 1/2 teaspaan aimand extract

Combine sugar, water and vinegar; bring to boiling point. Boil to 238° F. (or until sirup spins a long thread from tip of spoon). Add salt. Beat egg whites stiff; gradually add sirup, beating constantly, until frosting holds shape. Add almond extract. Makes enough to fill and frost two 9" cake layers.

* If all-purpose flour is used, the amount o flour in the recipe should be reduced to 21/2 cups instead of 3 cups.



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a Girl's Skin and Hair

Youthful skin and hair problems merit special care and treatment By LORETTA MILLER

OTHING disturbs the 'teen age girl more than blemished skin and unattractive hair. To them their beauty problems are of major importance. And rightly so. For without pride in personal appearance one seldom shows real pride in her achievements, her home or, in fact, in any endeavor. It takes an honest desire to want to look nice that often leads the school girl to be first in her class; to hold the finest position in the town; to be head of her local club, and eventually, to be a leading citizen of her community. Personal pride is a fine

It isn't fair to approach a routine for blemished skin of face and back without also dealing with oily scalp, for it is believed by many authorities that these two are very closely allied. Their research has found that unhealthy scalp all too often leads to blemishes over the face, back and upper arms, and that the first thing to be corrected is the scalp. Whether this is true or not, is a moot question, but it has been proved that in the majority of cases the blemishes cleared up when the scalp condition was overcome. In some instances, though, it must be said, each condition was corrected independent of the other.

Which is your major 'teen age beauty problem? Oily, unattractive hair? Blemishes on face and back? The corrective routine is so simple and can be followed easily, regardless of how limited one's time is. Thoroughness is the keynote, however, that leads to perfection. So follow through thoroughly with each step of the following suggestions if you want to present yourself with beautiful hair and a flawless complexion long before the holidays get under way.

Start with the hair and scalp. Ask your druggist for a bottle of petroleum jelly and a small amount of sulphur. Remove the petroleum jelly from its jar, place it in a small bowl and stir into it as much of the sulphur powder as necessary to make a creamy salve. Then put the sulphur "ointment" back into the jar and keep it covered when not in use. This salve is to be used on the scalp, not the hair. The night before your regular shampoo make an application of the sulphur preparation to your scalp.

First brush your hair thoroughly. Then use a fine-toothed comb for combing your hair and loosening any flakes from your scalp. The brushing and combing will stir up circulation and cause your scalp to tingle. Next, part your hair in the middle and rub a very small amount of the sulphur salve directly onto your scalp. (Be sure to use only a very small amount. The amount necessary to cover your entire scalp should be not more than 1/4 teaspoonful). Then make another part about half an inch from the first one and apply the corrective to the scalp. Continue this same method of parting the hair and applying the sulphur jelly to the scalp until every region of your scalp has been gone over.

If the right amount of corrective aid has been applied, you will be able to comb your hair into place without the slightest evidence that an application has been made to the scalp. If your hair appears too oily, however, a scarf may be worn during the day, or a net will serve to prevent straight ends spoiling the appearance of your hairdo.

There are so many splendid shampoos available that one should not have the slightest difficulty selecting the right one. Or, a shampoo made of Castile soap and water, or liquid Green soap may be used. The first is made by shaving the soap into a pint jar of



Kay Christopher, a young movie star, adheres to a rule of frequent scrubbing for a fine complexion.

water and letting it stand until dissolved. The latter may be bought in any drug store and is used as bought. It is important, regardless of the hair problem, that every trace of shampoo is rinsed from hair and scalp. A clean towel should be used for drying the

If the scalp condition to be overcome is of long standing and really quite troublesome, another application of the sulphur "ointment" should be made after the shampoo. If the first application made the scalp too oily, naturally that applied after the shampoo should not be so generous. After the first or second application, however, you will be able to judge exactly the right amount for your scalp. If you will measure out one-fourth of a teaspoon of the ointment and place it on the back of your left hand or in a little dish, you will find it convenient for the application and you will know, too, exactly how much you are using. Repeat the application of the corrective remedy two or three times each week, always before and after your shampoo and be sure to shampoo your hair once every week. And make certain that your comb and brush are shampooed along with your hair. Never use soiled brush or comb on clean hair and scalp. This is important.

Blemishes on face, back and upper arms respond to the simplest of all daily care. Many of the quickest and best results your beauty editor has seen were accomplished by nothing more than soap and water and perhaps a very light lotion. Except for highly specialized care prescribed by a physician one will find great improvement by keeping her skin clean and using little, if any, makeup.

For overcoming blemishes on face, shoulders or back, and upper arms, you will want any good soap and two brushes, one complexion brush for the face and a very stiff-bristled brush for the body. The complexion brush should be used twice each day. Lather the brush well and scrub. Scrub until the face is pink and the skin tingles. Then rinse off all soap and dry the skin. If and when the blemishes are "red and angry" looking, make a lotion by blending one-half cup of pure alcohol with an equal amount of pure water. Keep this in a bottle. Then after scrubbing the face, moisten a pad of cotton with the liquid and pat it over the blemished skin. Scrub blemished facial skin twice each day, but use the liquid only once each day.

Ridding the back of blemishes and roughness requires nothing more than soap and water, stimulation by brushing, and-patience. Smooth skin will not come over night, but it will certainly come if one is faithful to the daily scrubbing for a short time.

Lather the brush well and scrub and scrub over the blemishes until the skin appears red, or a deep pink. If you cannot reach your own back, enlist the help of your mother, sister or girl friend. But by all means be faithful to the daily back scrubbing if you want results. All soap should be rinsed off the skin after each scrubbing and a rough towel used for rubbing the skin dry. The blend of alcohol and water may be patted lightly over the newly scrubbed skin, but the one most essential point is to repeat the daily

scrubbings and not let up on them until results are accomplished.

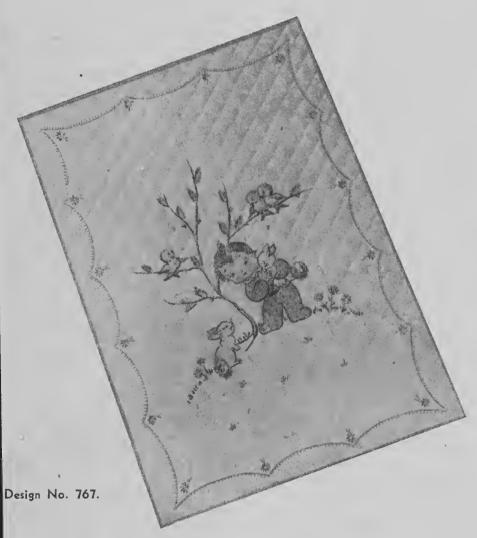
Cleanliness is the keynote! If you want to hasten the corrective process, if you think results are slow in showing, look to your daily habits. Avoid eating an abundance of starches, greasy fried and over-sweet foods. Be sure that your elimination is faultless and by all means get in enough exercise to keep up circulation. A brisk walk each day is a standard beauty treatment in every country over the world.

Don't take 'teen age beauty problems lightly! A young lady's pride in her appearance is a fine thing and should be encouraged!

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By ANNA DeBELLE

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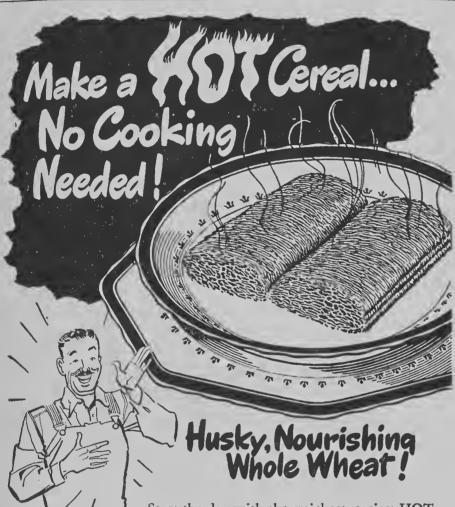
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Your Food Chopper

Points in purchase and care of a handy tool

BY MARGARET SPEECHLY

ROBABLY you will buy only one food chopper in a lifetime so be sure it is the right sort for your needs. There are several sizes but you won't want a small one for the farm, or an outside "commercial" either. Better get a medium grinder with a wide opening that will be easy to fill. A small mouth is only an aggravation because it must be fed slowly to avoid spilling food.

Most choppers are made of cast iron, with a tinned surface to prevent rusting. When buying inspect every part to make sure there are no flaws in the tinning. Run your finger around the various edges to locate sharp or rough

surfaces.

It will pay you to decide on a mincer which is easy to clean, and that goes for the knives or grinder-plates as well as for the body. Try adjusting the grinder-plates to find out whether they are easy to put in place on the front of the chopper. Ask the dealer about getting repairs. It is good policy to buy a reliable make that is backed by the manufacturer.

A firm grip is an important feature of any chopper. Even the best tend to work loose but you can fix this by using a strip of sandpaper. Place the rough side next to the table, fold it underneath over the edge, then put the chopper in position over the sandpaper and screw it on tightly. This holds firmly and saves having to tighten the screw frequently.

If the chopper leaves ridges on the table, protect the surface with a small piece of plywood or thin board laid over the sandpaper. To speed up the assembling of the grinder, I keep the piece of wood and sandpaper, with the extra grinder-plates in a small box.

CLEANING a tool of this kind is easier if you run pieces of dried bread or crackers through it at the last. Of course they must be really crisp, since half-dry material just doesn't work. Wash in hot, soapy water and for the corners use a meat skewer. Dry thoroughly and set the pieces in the warming closet for a while. Put together loosely before storing. If you have no dust-free place, pull a large paper sack over the chopper.

Each time you set up the chopper you will find it pays to do several jobs. Here are some suggestions for a sequence of work which can be varied according to your plans. Start with dried bread-a supply is always useful to have in reserve for crumbing. You can avoid scattering crumbs as they emerge from the grinder by tying a paper bag on to the front of the machine with a piece of string. Then it is no trick at all to empty the crumbs straight from the sack into the storage jar.

Next you could put through suet for steamed puddings. This is much quicker than doing it by hand and if stored in a covered crock in a cool place it will keep a long time. Cheese could go through next, or nuts, or you may need dates, figs or peel for baking. Finish up with meat or chicken. Anything strongly flavored like onions should come last on the list. A piece of crisp bread run through after each food will clear the machine. Cooked meat or chicken is much more tasty when put through twice.

To fill cracks in floor, soak half pound of old newspapers for three days in three quarts of soft water. Then add one quart of wheat flour and one tablespoonful of alum. Stir and boil on stove until quite thick. Let it cool and fill up cracks having first brushed them out well. The paste hardens like wood and will paint well.-Mrs. F. E. B., Alta.



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The Rural School and Health

Parents, teacher and pupils may co-operate to make it a . better place to work and play

By ROBERT F. MINES

HE little old red school house may be one of the most picturesque parts of prairie childhood, but too frequently it is also one of the unhealthiest. Many schools still possess outdoor lavatories. Others have no equipment with which students may wash for lunch. Still others never test the drinking water supplied to the schools in order to determine if it is pure enough for this purpose.

What can be done to make the rural school a healthier place for your children to attend? The following are some suggestions that may be of use:

The outdoor lavatory should be done away with if possible. If this cannot be achieved, two buildings, each well lighted and ventilated, should be used for this purpose. They should be at least 25 feet apart, and double that distance from the school. Deodorants and disinfectants should be used in these buildings frequently.

Indoor lavatories require two small rooms that are kept well lighted, heated and ventilated. Since there is only one basement in most rural schools, if the boys' lavatory is in it, the girls' room should be off their cloakroom upstairs. Of all the indoor lavatories, the removable receptacle type is the least satisfactory. Much more preferable are the caustic and septic tank types, both of which need to be cleared out only once a year.

For wash-up equipment, a bench that has been covered with oil cloth is most desirable. More than the usual one basin is needed for a school of 20 or more pupils. Light colored basins are best, and it is essential that they be kept clean. As for towels, paper ones usually prove the most sanitary and tidy, although fabric towels would probably be less expensive. If the latter are used, they should be placed on towel racks when not in use and should be taken home frequently to be washed. Each pupil should have his own towel. It is usually most sanitary for the school to provide soap for the pupils, and the liquid or powdered variety proves quite inexpensive when purchased in quantity.

As regards the water supply, most schools have their own well. It should be located a good number of yards from both outdoor lavatories and the school building. Cement or stone is the most satisfactory cribbing. Should the school not have a well, water may be brought in large quantities and stored in a cement tank with a pump attached or brought daily in a small covered container. In any case, the purity of the water should be assured by having it brought from a source that is unpolluted. Provincial laboratories will test samples of water without charge.

Each pupil should use his own cup. These may be stored in "cup cupboards"-small structures with divisions large enough to hold cups-when not in use. Cups must be kept clean and should be taken home regularly in order to have them washed in hot soap suds.

In connection with the ventilation and heating of the school, there should be a continuous flow of fresh air. Most furnaces and heaters provide for air openings, and these should not be allowed to become plugged. Water pans should not be allowed to remain dry. It should be possible to open at least every other window from the bottom. The proper temperature for the room is approximately 68 degrees Fahrenheit. With regard to the lighting of a school, the larger part of the light should come from the left of the pupil and should be from the east or west. Most of the windows should be on one side

extending to within six inches of the ceiling. A light buff is a good color for the walls, and the ceiling should always be a cream color, somewhat lighter than the walls.

An unhealthy procedure to be encountered in the school has to do with the cleaning of blackboard erasers. Ordinarily the pupils take turns in doing this. The method most commonly used is to stand on the school steps and strike the erasers together. This removes the chalk dust from the erasers, but in breathing the children draw it into their own lungs. Various commercial devices which are available at moderate cost may be used to clean erasers more healthfully. The children may also make a long frame, slightly wider than a brush, into which the erasers are inserted. They are then cleaned with an ordinary broom.

If parents, teacher and pupils will co-operate in making the school a better place in which to work and play, it can be a picturesque part of prairie life—and a healthy one as well.

The Old Hemline Problems

To bring your wardrobe up to date, you probably spend many an evening letting down hems. And maybe you have a little trouble with a stubborn hem crease that just won't come out. If so, try this tip from the clothing specialists: First, wet the crease line on the wrong side. Then turn the material over on the right side, and roll the crease back and forth with your fingers to work it out. After that, press the garment on the wrong side. That should help do the trick.

Wax Your Handbag

Rain and snow may leave their mark on leather handbags, especially those with a smooth finish. To protect your bag, wax it. Apply an even coat of good quality floor or furniture wax, let it dry, and polish it thoroughly with a clean, soft cloth. Then repeat the process in 24 hours. Wax not only helps to protect the leather from water marks and soil, but also helps keep it from drying out and losing its flexibility.

To dry men's gum rubbers which so often get wet in the spring, fill them with warm oats. Do not have the oats too hot. The warm oats absorb the moisture and are not hot enough to burn the rubbers. This may also be used to dry leather shoes.—Miss R. M.,

To help remove the shine from trousers. Use a solution of one tablespoonful borax to a quart of water. Rub shiny parts with this solution and press on wrong side while damp. If nap is worn off, rub gently with emery paper. -Mrs. G. S., Alta.

After using the juice of lemons, save the rinds for whitening your drainboard. Rub the inside of the rind over the board, then sprinkle with a soap cleanser. Let stand a few minutes, scrub with a brush, and wash clean. The result is well worth the effort.

If a pinch of dry mustard is added to the dish water, it will remove fish odor from dishes.-Miss D. B., Alta.

To soften hard paint brushes, boil them in pure vinegar for a few minutes, then wash them in soap suds.-Mrs. E. A. H., Sask.

Rub glycerine over corks in glue, polish and other bottles, and they will come out easily.—Miss P.A.P., Sask.

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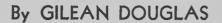
After September's overture the color and mood of autumn's symphony deepens in grandeur and power

OW the sky is that deep, heartstirring blue which comes only at this season. It is faintly echoed in the smoke and haze of the September air and in the greyblue scarves of mist which sometimes encircle the shoulders of the mountains. Summer has not yet gone, winter has not yet come. The wind of autumn is filled with welcome and regret.

Frosted-blue elderberries patch the hills and in the gardens three seasons mingle. Beside the diminished pinks, pale blues and mauves, stand the dominant reds and yellows, while the white of asters and zinnias is like a drift of snow across the beds. The sun is in my valley four hours at most, but even on the darkest day the signal red of vine maple and the lamplight yellow of cottonwood brighten the hills. Time nas a slumbrous quality and it is difficult to do more than lie half-asleep in the sunlight which will soon be gone, or sit idly beside Wren River watching willow gold splatter on the swift, shalow water.

The river is familiar with gold. Placer miners have shaken their pans long its banks for nearly a century low. Platinum, garnets and some of he now-called strategic minerals have hown their colors in this gravel, but he way to them is canyon-crossed and nountainous and so almost no one follows it in these days. Sluice boxes, hovels and crow-bars, half-buried in and or wild berry bushes, with a mile log cabin or two blaze the trail our hardier ancestors.

The tensions of dry and busy sumner relax in this month. It is pleasant of follow the flight of a leaf spiralling zily from tree to ground or watch the ain drifting softly down the moun-



tains. The eyes are mesmerized into sleep by the effortless flow of water and its sound is more soothing than any lullaby. Sometimes it is low and gentle, like a song before dreaming; again the clear notes of a violin seem to rise into the night air or a sym-

phonic storm comes through the darkness. It is possible to hear every instument and now and then quartets and choruses add their melody to the whole. Loving music deeply, it is yet possible for me to say that no music can equal these river harmonies; or the chorus of birds at dawn and nightfall. There is nothing so pure, so melodious, so altogether free.

THE days quicken as they move on into October. Fires are lighted outside

and in, and their smoke films the clear, crisp air. The great brush piles crackle and spit by day and at night become giant smudges, now and then thrusting out a swift orange tongue at the darkness. The squirrels and chipmunks race vertically and horizontally through the woods. The water ouzels ballet dance on the stones of the river or skim the water in arrow flights. But in the

forest time moves slowly still. Moss and fern and creeping vine are green, and the red berries of starflower and devil's club still flame. No leaf rustles underfoot where only evergreens stir over head. The wild flowers of summer have gone, but aster, thistle, golden rod and sunflower star the river banks and clearings. The cottonwoods and aspens have turned now and bring sunshine to replace the sun. Both days and nights are cool and the rivers are coming into full voice. As the sun dips lower behind the mountains, the moon rides high. Sometimes it is barred with clouds and then fireweed will be dark save for a great silver gash across its flank, or evergreen will be in shadow except for an argent spray laid on its peak. These nights are among the loveliest of earth.

October means that axe and saw will be heard constantly in the forest and the wood-

sheds bulge with maple, alder, cedar, fir and hemlock. Log piles rear up in nearby clearings and by windfalls everywhere. Late-blooming flowers are cut down and bulbs go into the ground. As always, past and future mingle in the present. Fruit preserving is over, but there are dills and sauerkraut to be put up and vegetables to be canned and pickled. The big crocks and the

sealers of red, white and green spiciness join the high-piled boxes of dinner vegetables in the crowded root house. Beans and peas and every sort of seed are drying in cotton bags over the stove. Herbs hang from the porch roof or lie in trays in the oven, depending on the weather. Squirrel-like, stores are being piled against the winter so that the goodness of the earth may still be present even when the snow is deep

and steady on the ground. The warbler, robin and humming-bird have gone, but the varied thrush, the winter wren and the water ouzel are neighborly and cheerful. Blue jays flash across the lawn and ducks dive and paddle in the pool. They know that there is no gun here.

Then one morning the ground is white and the bushes are coated with silver. It is the first heavy frost of the year. The air has a sparkle to it

and the rivers, running by their whiterimmed stones, seem to have chilled overnight. The sun arrives for its hour in the valley and the ground begins to thaw and steam around the stiff brown plants in their nests of mulch. The late vegetables left in the field soften very slowly; they will soon be as good as ever. The sun turns the bushes into crystal figurines and the tips of the Christmas ferns glint sharply. The steam is like incense rising from the earth until the sun goes and there is chill and shadow once again. At night the frostlight is on the darkened river flowing like ebony between silver banks under the polished steel of all the stars of heaven.

Then it becomes warmer again and the rains begin. November has come. Everything draws within itself a little and, except for the flooding rivers, there is silence. Work moves indoors and the furniture and window-sills receive an additional coat of paint against the smoke of winter fires. The cabin seems to become more compact and secluded. No visitors will arrive through the rain-drenched woods and a feeling of security and calm falls manna-like upon the heart. Books are taken from their shelves and in the companionship of great minds the world's voice is only a shouting far behind. Now it is possible to look upon one's own face with leisured scrutiny.

THE darkened, sunless days are like a Chinese print. Cottonwoods etched on smoke or against the ivory mist of the mountains seem something out of faery. Everything is line now that color has gone and the good bones show the expert modelling of the earth. The spirit of man is quiet and apart for there is substance to be drawn from these shadowy days when the rain, steadily and softly, accompanies the singing of the rivers and lulls unreason and unrest to sleep.

The November darkness which follows the November day is no true darkness, for then the land is quickened and silver-torched with moonlight. These nights are like laughter at the wedding feast, for it is nearly that awaited hour when man and winter will be alone together.

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The Country Boy and Girl

The Mouse and the Pumpkin

By MARY E. GRANNAN

T was a cold October day. An east wind was blowing across the wheat field which was now bleak and bare. The little field mouse who had had his nest in among the sheaves was shivering. He'd lost his home at harvest time. He had no place to go. He was sneezing and sniffing as he made his way through the pumpkin patch.

A big yellow pumpkin saw him and called to him. "What's the matter little field mouse? Are you crying about something?"

"No," sniffed the little mouse. "I'm not crying yet. My nose is running, and I have a bad cold in my head. The harvesters moved away my nest and I've no home. I feel like crying, but I don't want to."

Another gust of wind almost blew the little mouse off his feet.

"Come here little mouse," said the pumpkin. "I'll let you sit close to me. If you creep in close to me, my fat yellow sides will keep the wind off you, and you'll be nice and warm."

"You're very kind," said the little mouse, and he crept in under the curving side of the big yellow fellow and nestled close to him, and got away from the winds. When the wind went down, he went out and gathered some dried leaves and made himself a new nest in the shelter of the pumpkin. For several days, he was very happy. And then one morning the farmer came into the pumpkin patch. He had a little boy with him.

"Now son," he said. "You pick whatever pumpkin you want here for your Thanksgiving pie."

The big yellow pumpkin heard. So did the little field mouse and he felt his yellow friend give a shudder. The little boy went from one pumpkin to another, giving each a friendly pat with his chubby hand. When he came to the big yellow pumpkin he cried out in joy.

"Here it is, Dad. Here's the very one. He's the biggest pumpkin in the patch."

"We'll pick him tomorrow," said the farmer, "And we'll have the sweetest pumpkin pie in the world made out of him'

With that, the farmer and the little boy left the pumpkin patch and went back to the house. The little field mouse came from his nest under the fat side of the big yellow pumpkin. He looked up into the pumpkin's face. Tears were streaming down his yellow cheeks.

"I don't want to be a pie," he sobbed. "I don't want to be a Thanksgiving pie."

"And you're not going to be one." said the little field mouse. "You helped me when I was cold and had no nest. Now I'm going to help you."

The big yellow fellow looked down at the little mouse, and smiled a slow, crooked smile. "It's good of you to feel that way, little mouse, but I'm afraid you can't help me."

'You're wrong. I know I can help you. Now you listen to me. You're growing on the side of a hill aren't you?" The pumpkin nodded that he was. "Well," said the little mouse, "I'm going to gnaw you from the vine and I'm going to push you down the hill. When they come tomorrow to pick you, you won't be here, and they'll take the second best pumpkin from the patch for their pie.'

The pumpkin grew very excited. His only worry was that the little mouse would be too small to get him rolling. But the little mouse was not worried. He went to work at gnawing the thick, woody stem of the pumpkin. He gnawed

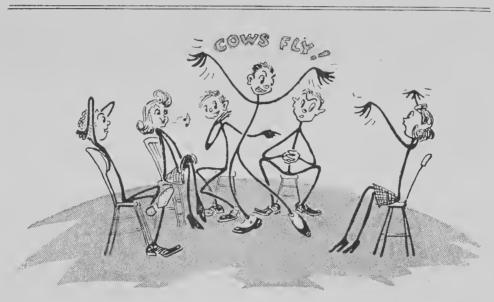
SURPRISE! Surprise! We have a special surprise for you this month for we are rest of the group. Plates of ice cream her into a story book of are then placed before each contestbeginning a series of pictures for you to color and make into a story book of your very own. These pictures will illustrate scenes from your favorite stories such as "Hansel and Gretel," "Robinson Crusoe," and other stories which children all over the world have been told or have read for themselves.

Read the story first to get an idea of the colors that would be most suitable to use in the picture then see what a fine, neat job you can make of coloring it. Use a plain scribbler to paste your pictures in or make a booklet of brown wrapping paper sheets, then below each picture paste the printed story. We will have twelve stories for you so make your booklet large enough to hold them all. The cover of your story book can be made in just the way you would like it with your own ideas of decoration and coloring and a space for your name to be printed.

Here is a Hallowe'en game for a party at home or school. All the players are seated around a table or in their desks with their hands resting on the top. A leader is chosen and all players must "follow the leader," who lifts both arms up into the air and cries out, "Sparrows fly" (the leader may use the name of any living creature that flies). All the players imitate the actions of the leader. So the game goes on with lots of speed until the leader calls out "Cows fly" (the leader may use

any creature that does not fly) and the players must not imitate his actions this time. If they do they are out of the game until a new one is started.

ann Sankey



until he was out of breath. Then he sat down to rest. When he was rested he started all over again. When the clock chimed five in the old tower clock in the village, the pumpkin was free of his stem.

"Now," said the field mouse. "I'm going to push. You try with all your might, Mr. Pumpkin, to help me move

The little mouse shoved and pushed and pushed and shoved. But the pumpkin still sat still in the patch.

"I didn't think you could move me," he sobbed. But just then a friendly wind, the same wind that had almost blown the little mouse off his feet, came along. He saw what they were trying to do. He gave one big blow from his big windy whistle, and the big pumpkin started down the hill into the hollow. He rolled into some bushes and was hidden from view.

The next day when the farmer and the little boy came to the pumpkin patch, the little boy cried out, "Dad, dad, the biggest pumpkin is gone. Look, it's gnawed right off the stem. It looks as if a mouse had done it."

"Maybe some mouse wanted a pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving too," laughed "Oh well, there his father. pumpkins in the patch, that will make pies every bit as good."

Down in the hollow a little happy mouse was building a new nest under the sheltering sides of a big happy

Footprints and Thumbmarks Game

THIS is the time of year for games for the Hallowe'en party and here are some which are fun to play.

Conduct the guests one at a time to another room. One member of the party draws an outline around the shoe and left thumb of each person on a sheet of paper, numbering the sheet.

Keep a list of the names corresponding to the numbers. After all the guests have been foot-and-thumb printed, papers and pencils are handed out, and as the numbered sheets are passed each person writes down the number and the name of the person whom he thinks made them. Pass the papers when completed three times to the right and let the correct list be read out and the papers checked. Award a prize for the list nearest to being

Several couples are chosen to take place in this match. They take their places at the table in full view of the are then placed before each contestant. Each couple is given two spoons tied together with a cord six inches long (or shorter if desired). At a given signal the match begins, each contestant endeavoring to eat his or her ice cream as fast as possible under the handicap of a couple using a pair of tied spoons. The pair finishing first wins this match.

At Hallowe'en time more than on any other occasion the losers of various games should be made to pay forfeits.

Ask the victim to stand with his arms extending straight out from both sides. Place a penny in each of his hands and ask him to get both coins into one hand without bringing the hands together. (Put one coin on a table, then turn around and pick if up with the other hand).

My Own Book of Stories

No. I in Series

YOU will have lots of fun making "MY OWN BOOK OF STORIES" with the pictures to color which we wil draw for you each month on this "Boy and Girl" page. Each boy and girl can color the pictures with the colors he thinks would be most suitable and are range them in a booklet to suit himself

Of course you remember the story of "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse," which is the story we have chosen for this month. The Town Mouse all dressed up in his fine clothe had gone to visit his cousin the Coun try Mouse who lived in a field. Th Country Mouse had given the Tow Mouse peas and barley straw to eat bu the Town Mouse thought this was ver poor food and that life in the country must be very dull indeed.

"Come to visit me in the city wher there are fine foods and life is excit ing," he invited.

So the Country Mouse went with hi cousin to the city and found the housbeautiful and cozy and the foods fin and dainty, but alas!--just when the were beginning to eat the fine food some men came into the room.

"Danger! Hide!" whispered the Tow Mouse and the two r ice had to run f their lives. (As you see in our drawing

'That settles it!" said the Count Mouse, "my life may be dull and m food may be plain but at least I liv more safely in my field in the country and he went home and never returned



Color this sketch of the Town and Country Mouse and paste it in a scrapbook.

SELLING THE SEED CROP

Continued from page 8

gricultural surpluses allotted 2,000 netric tons of forage crop seeds to turope out of the 1947 crop. Practically all of it will have to come from this ontinent. It is anybody's guess whether hey will use dollars for this requirement, or save their hard money for ome other need. The bright spot in he picture is that Ontario, which uses izable amounts of alsike seed, had a oor season last year, and will not be ble to supply its 1948 needs out of ome production.

If and when the alsike carnival gets setback, growers will have to make ne best of it they can. The Co-op hould come through that experience ith no serious scars. Each grade of very seed is pooled separately. Growrs of one sort of seed may suffer a harp reverse while producers of nother kind, dealing through the same arketing channel, may experience lative prosperity. The members of the ed growers' organization have been irly well schooled to understand that eir hired help cannot work miracles. he best they can do is to obtain the ghest price that supply-and-demand nditions warrant.

That the Co-op has done this has een amply demonstrated. Take for inneance last year's experience with alce. When the 1946 seed first began come on the market, the Co-op and e trade alike set a price of 18 cents a und, with some traders varying a w cents either way. With the trade at first payment was an outright sale a final price. With the Co-op it was derstood that if prices strengthened ring the year, subsequent participan payments would be made.

As the trading season advanced, it came evident that there was a strong itish demand at remunerative prices. e Co-op raised its initial bid to 30 ts, paying the difference to early ppers who had delivered on the 18t initial payment basis. In the spring Co-op paid an interim payment of en cents. At the end of its fiscal r it paid another nine cents, raising season's total to 46 cents a pound No. 1 seed! Maybe the trade sold advantageously as the Co-op, but poor wight who sold to it at the ing price early in the year did not a second helping.

HE case of alfalfa is similar. Probably few growers outside the Co-op eived more than 35 cents a pound for 1946 crop, and some of them reved less. In line with prevailing ces the Co-op paid 20 cents on dery, an interim payment of 15 cents the spring, and at the close of the r's business, a final payment of 5% ts, bringing the total to 40% cents bound.

hese two cases illustrate another nt. In the seed business, where every ple has to be cleaned by several rations, and many samples blended et the best price for all growers, it necessary to get the seed into the ehouse as early as possible. The e is short enough as it is, for orders, cially foreign orders, have to be d months before spring seeding. In ing to the trade for a final price, re is a tendency on a rising or flucting market for the producer to keep seed as long as he dares. A strong op, loyally supported by its members have nothing to lose by early dey, is better able to organize its

operations, with attendant benefit to its patrons.

Blending is a potential source of profit to all. For instance, consider the case of alfalfa. Market standards call for a certain degree of color and germination. Samples of seed from one part of the country which has had unfavorable harvest weather may be off color, but well above requirements for germination. Seed from another locality may have a splendid color, but not up to scratch for germination. Sold singly, both samples will be discounted. Blended the whole lot makes top grade, and co-operative selling assures that the proceeds go into the pockets of the producer.

During the war there was no difficulty in finding a market for the mounting production of pure Alberta seed. Orders from abroad were funnelled into the Seed Export Office, a government agency which allocated orders to the various suppliers. This wartime agency discontinued operations in 1946, and from this time forward, the Co-op was on its own. But it was ready in advance. In 1943 it had joined hands with similar organizations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, forming a joint selling agency under the name of Northern Seed Sales with a head office in Winnipeg. Its manager, J. D. Arnold, and his assistant, Howard Gorseline, bear heavy responsibilities in the successful marketing of the seed collected by the three provincial organizations, over half of which comes from Alberta alone.

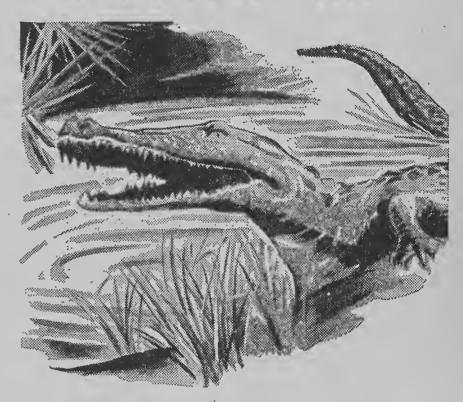
LOOKING through the other end of the telescope at the organization within the province, one must record that the original aim of merging all the seed co-operatives within the province has not been achieved, strictly speaking. Two local associations, that in the Peace River district, and another, the Sangudo-Mayerthorpe association, both with good records, have chosen to preserve their respective identities. However all eat happily from the same table, for the provincial seed growers' body acts as sales agent for the two local co-ops.

The Alberta Seed Growers Co-operative commenced operations with no chart to follow. Doubtless mistakes have been made, but on the whole it has come triumphantly through an early period bristling with difficulties. Success such as it has had has not been accidental. It has been bought by the devotion of a small band of co-operatively minded seed growers, including directors who have had responsibilities thrust upon them far exceeding their anticipations.

To pick out names is invidious, but the account would be incomplete without reference to Howard P. Wright, president, and A. R. Smith, general manager. Howard Wright came into prominence as a Master Farmer, the most extensive grower of registered Red Bobs wheat, and president for the last 12 years of the organization of which this account is written. His latest distinction is election to the presidency of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Mr. Wright's farm is at Airdrie, but it is debateable whether he has seen it in daylight this year because of the time he has spent at Camrose in overalls superintending plant recon-

Art Smith is a business conscript. He was taken from his Peace River farm to run affairs from the Edmonton office. He has been a grower of pure seed for 18 years, and director of the Seed Growers for the last 14. Mainly on these two men falls the job of maintaining the record set by this organization since its rebirth a dozen years ago.

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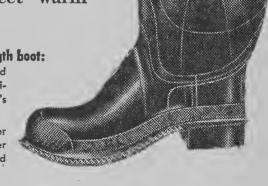
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Between Ourselves



A Dark Chapter.

TWO identical criticisms of the ducks on the September cover have come to us, but they were preceded by a bright young member of our own staff who we shall introduce as Ronnie. Said he, "Ducks fly with their necks straight out and their feet up, not trailing out behind." We felt that the picture must be right because it was painted by Lynn Bogue Hunt, foremost bird artist on this continent whose work has appeared for years in the best American magazines. But nevertheless we took it to B. W. Cartwright, naturalist for Ducks Unlimited, a recognized authority on anything to do with wild fowl. Mr. Cartwright produced photographs of birds in the actual process of settling down on the water. Says he, while it is true that birds in full flight have their necks stuck straight out, and their landing gear retracted, ducks about to settle put on the brakes. Our artist is vindicated. Mr. Cartwright considers the picture an accurate portrayal. The one who stuck his neck out in this case seems to have been Ronnie. * * *

WE have heard of fellows who took Bren gun carriers to see the girl friend when they could get by the vehicle park sentries, but we are behind on this one. L. Martinovsky, of Gerald, Saskatchewan, asks us to publish the results any of our readers may have had in using carriers for field traction. Will someone please oblige?

WE present to our readers a new departure in this issue by including an English fiction story. It's a risk. English fiction writers do not follow the same rigid short fiction technique universally required by editors on this side. Our story on page 6, rich with atmosphere of English farm life, contains many terms which will not be familiar to Canadian farmers. We haven't attempted to convert them. We have even left the spelling of "plough" as in the manuscript, although we couldn't bring ourselves to allow that usage in the title. We are keeping our fingers crossed till we hear from readers about it. Our mental state in the meantime is something like the boy's in the picture at the top of the page. We liked it, but perhaps we ought not to have done it.

THOS. WINTER writes from Edmonton asking us to take a pot shot at what he calls "the increasing army of government workers who think they are running this country." But we are reluctant to do so in view of the latest bit of evidence that even government agents can temper the strict observance

of regulations with a bit of common sense. The story as we get it is this: A man called at the Board of Trade in London, England, and revealed the fact that he wasn't wearing a shirt. He made a piteous appeal for some extra clothing coupons but was refused because he could not qualify. Whereupon he said. "In that case I might as well go into a nudist colony; in fact I'll start one of my own right here and now." At that he tore of his jacket. He was starting to remove his trousers when the embarrassed officials hurriedly capitulated and pressed 18 coupons into his hand, enough to buy three shirts.

LIKE horse stories like your Green Grass of Wyoming, but I dislike seeing the pronoun "who" applied to them. It is all too common but just the same it is incorrect, as I think you will agree.—E. H. Davis, Excel, Alta.

D^{ID} The Guide present contradictory view points in the September issue where Franklin Harris' article on conservation was followed by the story of Longshot Lassiter's operations? Harry Wyer, a prairie old timer, now living at Mission City, B.C., comes to our rescue by saying "No." If Canada is to realize its economic potentialities, said he, it is necessary to continue to break up these large northern tracts formerly forested. But it should be accompanied by a vigorous campaign of re-forestation, especially around P.F.R.A. dams, and other places where snow, or spring run-off, may be trapped. He adds a convincing note about the necessity for greater appreciation of the work of birds in controlling insect pests.

WE gave up the world's series broadcast today to listen to George Stapleton, a labor organizer, speak on behalf of the packinghouse strike. At question time we asked what the attitude of the union would be if the farmers of this country, who are unfriendly to organized labor in this particular matter, demanded the removal of the embargo on cattle going to the United States. Obviously such a course would lessen the losses occasioned to stock growers by the strike, while at the same time keeping this country relatively meatless, in accordance with the tactics of the union. The answer in effect was that the unions would be opposed to opening the market for Canadian livestock. It would lessen the pressure which the strike put on the public (including the farmers) to force the issue. Well, between ourselves, it's all in the viewpoint.

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"A Country Guide Service"

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THE COUNTRY GUIDE BOOK DEPT

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